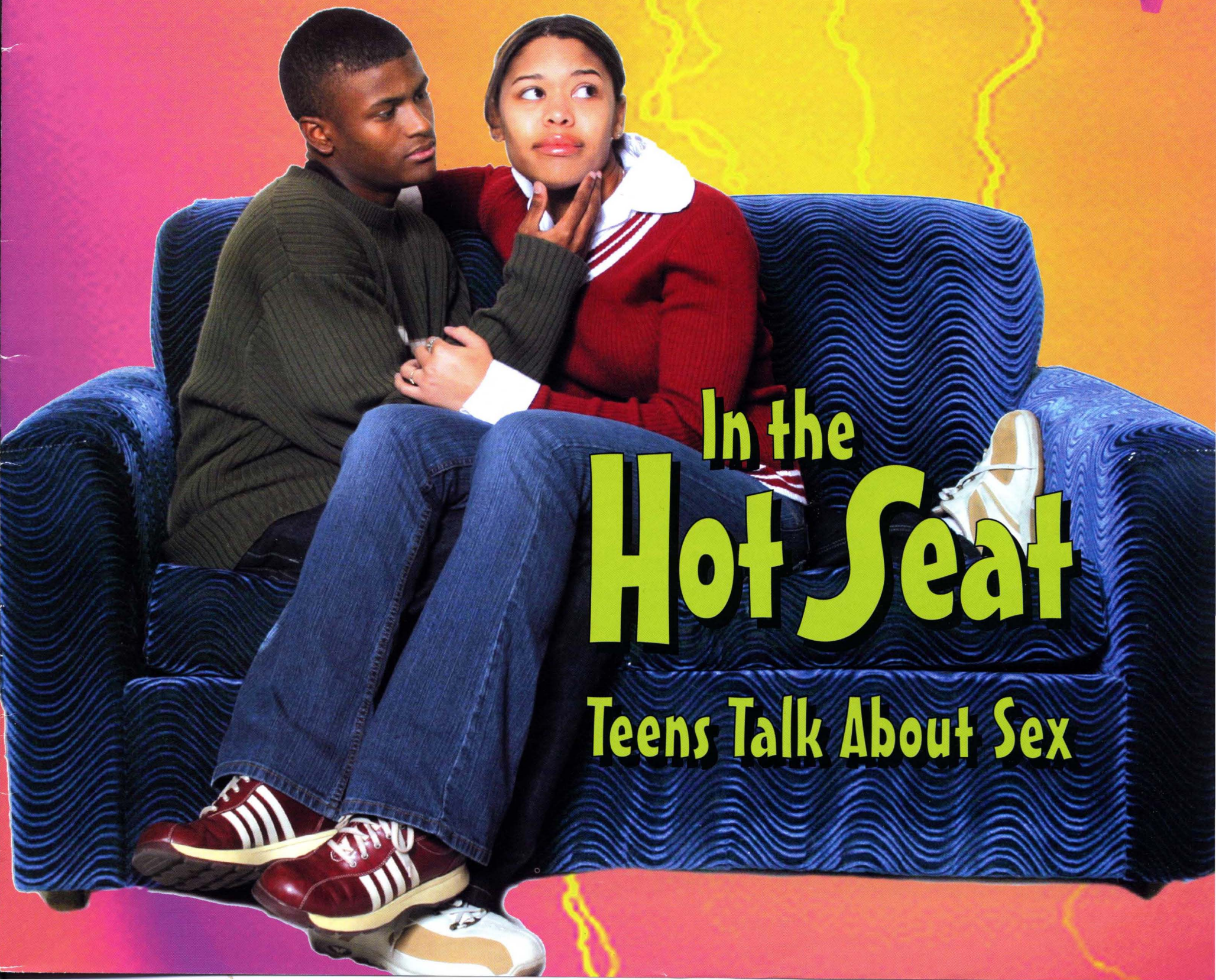


FEBRUARY 2004

CLASS!

By, for and about Clark County
high school students

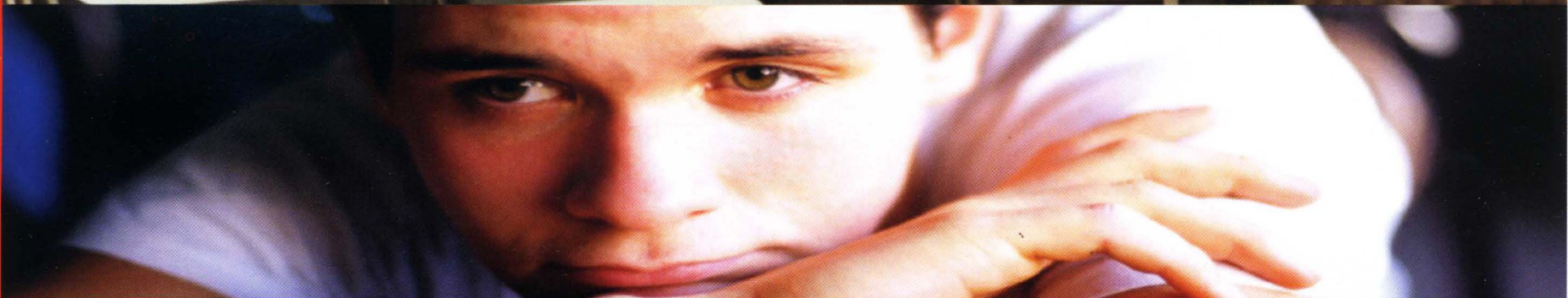


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Sex. There, we said it. We printed it. We're probably going to make some people mad.

This issue is not being published to anger anyone. This issue is bringing attention to the misunderstandings and miscommunication that exists between adults and teenagers on the topic of sex. Many adults believe that teens are too young to have sex and therefore, it is inappropriate to discuss it with them.

But the statistics tell us that teenagers are having sex, they are getting pregnant, and they are getting sexually transmitted diseases. By opening the dialogue, and allowing teenagers to provide their peers with researched and correct information about this sensitive issue, perhaps our community can witness a drop in the number of teens who are encountering life-altering consequences, from low self-esteem due to sexual pressures to contracting the AIDS virus.

Adults tell teens all the time to say no. It's your body and you need to respect it. That all makes perfect sense, but *how* do you say no? It's not so easy when there's someone else there trying to change your mind for you. If there are no adults providing this guidance, a teen's only information to base this important decision on could be coming from teens with nothing else to provide but peer pressure.

Please read these articles knowing that the writers are not telling other teens that it is or isn't okay to be sexually active. They're only acknowledging the fact that many teens are, and encouraging them to be smart and safe about it. These authors are merely providing the encouragement to respect yourself enough to say no, if that's what you want to do.

With that said, please send your letters to the editor to: CLASS! UNLV Box 451025, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025, or email classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu. Remember, we would love to hear positive feedback from our audience as well!



"An Evening with CLASS!" allowed Linda Ellerbee and me to get together for a good cause — providing high school students a voice in their community.

Allie Smith

Allie Smith
Editor/Executive Director
www.classmag.com

think

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news

A CLASS! reporter goes to Israel, and reports on life in the war-torn, holy city of Bethlehem. On a lighter note, CLASS!'s annual fundraiser provided the backdrop for an interview with newswoman Linda Ellerbee, whose advice to teens is forthright. 4

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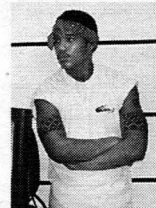
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For rockin' music, Linkin Park plays the T&M this month; for sheer drama, it's "The Vagina Monologues" at UNLV. 44

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February's list of scholarship opportunities includes almost \$20,000 to be parcelled out to deserving youth. 46

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How will you handle the situation when the time comes? Phillip Stewart, a senior at A-Tech, and Natalie Wilkerson, a senior at Sierra Vista HS, act out the difficult situation. Talent provided courtesy of Lenz Agency.

CLASS!

Vol. 10, Issue 6

A monthly publication by, for and about Clark County high school students

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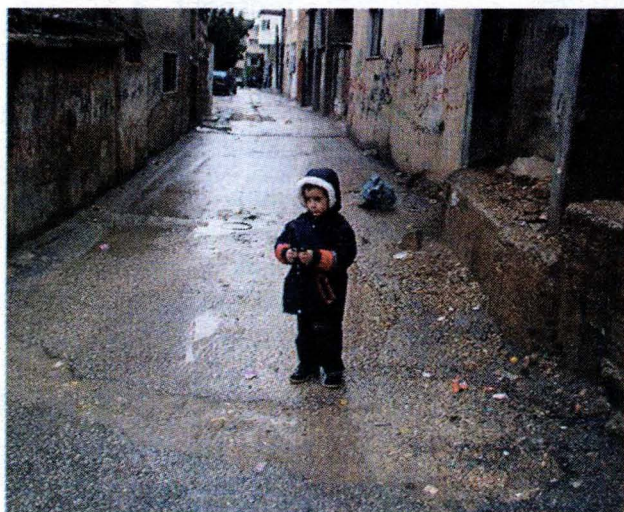
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Photos by Marlo Starr.

Las Vegas teen visits 'the saddest place in the world'

By Marlo Starr,
Community College HS

A woman waves from the window of her partially constructed home that has little hope of ever being completed. She stares into the group of foreigners, her wide-eyed baby clutched in one arm. I can feel every raindrop pelting my face and hair as I walk slowly through the narrow streets of the Bethlehem refugee camp. Garbage and rubble from the bombed buildings litter the pathway, and the air is filled with the smell of chicken feces.

I follow the pathway through the maze of broken-down houses, my jeans collecting rainwater. "Occupation Kills!" is scrawled in English letters across one wall, and the faces of suicide bombers are inked into the walls of the city to commemorate them. The police station, bombed over a year ago by Israeli soldiers, is now a pile of debris alongside the road.

I greet passersby with the words "Salaam Aleikum," meaning peace in Arabic, and try to talk to those who can speak English. They are receptive and friendly toward me. But it is less than a week before Christmas, and I can't help thinking, "This must be the saddest place in the world."

Thousands and thousands of Palestinian refugees live here in total devastation. Tourism makes up 60 percent of their economy, but because of bombing over the past three years, tourism in Bethlehem has declined to

the point where families are unable to support themselves.

Bethlehem is in Palestinian territory, and the Palestinians are not allowed across the tightly patrolled Israeli border without special permits. One shopkeeper complains that it would be easier for her to go to Britain than to be allowed into Jerusalem, which is little more than a 10- to 20-minute drive away.

In the week that I spent in Jerusalem, I was able to talk to individuals in Israel and in Bethlehem. I listened in awe, realizing my ignorance about the situation and unable to grasp the pain and resentment between Israeli Jews and Arabs. I came, along with 3,000 people from around the world, to attend the Heart to Heart Peace Rally in Jerusalem sponsored by the Inter-religious and International Peace Council. Every day for a

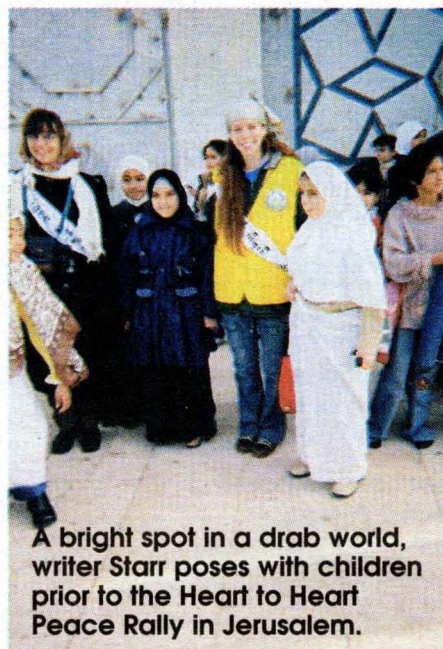
week, I participated in Service for Peace projects in various communities to promote the rally on Dec. 22, 2003.

I was one of about 15 young Americans attending the rally, and we cleaned parks in Jerusalem, volunteered at a Bethlehem orphanage, planted trees and unloaded thousands of donated boxes of clothing at a shelter.

Wherever I walked, I would see young Israeli soldiers with massive guns strapped to their backs. All Israelis, male and female, are required to serve in the military for a few years after high school, and they can never put down their guns, even if they are not on duty. I once saw a troop of female soldiers who were about my age marching down the street.

When I told Arabs about the peace rally, the most common response was: "We want peace, but the Jews don't want peace," and when I talked to Jews, the most common response was: "We want peace, but the Arabs don't want peace." The immense pain that they experience on a daily basis was difficult for me, an outsider, to understand, but I knew that every single person that I talked with desired peace.

As soon as I heard about the peace rally through my church, I instantly knew that it was something that I wanted to be a part of. I scrambled to get my passport in a few weeks' time, emptied my bank account and risked losing my job. I had never been out of the country or



A bright spot in a drab world, writer Starr poses with children prior to the Heart to Heart Peace Rally in Jerusalem.

traveled without my family before. I began to have nightmares about being shot and losing limbs. Also, questions began to gnaw at my brain. What impact did I expect the rally to make on a conflict that had spanned thousands of years? What difference did I think I could make?

Still, I felt a strong sense of urgency to go. I knew that something powerful was happening, and if I could at least have a little part in it, it would be worth everything that I might have to give up.

After seeing the miserable situation of the refugee camps, our group spent the day at the S.O.S. Orphanage in Bethlehem. We collected garbage and played with the children. A group of young girls followed me throughout the day and helped me pick up the garbage in their playground. They wrapped themselves around my arms and waist and called me "My Love" in Arabic.

I planted a tree in the yard, and when I finished, one little girl rubbed the mud from my fingers and began kissing my hands, saying, "I love you." I swallowed back tears. Peace seemed like such an impossible goal to so many people, but through our effort during that short time, I felt that the hopelessness was penetrated in some small way.

On the morning of the 22nd, we marched around the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, singing in unison, "Peace! Shalom! Salaam Aleikum! Pray for peace in the Middle East!" More than 4,000 people from Israel and 3,000 from around the globe gathered in Independence Park to pray for peace. Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders led the crowd. They embraced and called one another "my brother."

I remember looking out into the sea of flickering lights from the thousands of peace candles, and I felt my resolve to never forget solidify inside me. I was more grown up in that moment than I had ever been. I had seen more poverty and grief in that short time than in my whole life, but I also saw more radical change, more shifting views and more hope than I had ever experienced. I knew that I would never return to the small world that I lived in before, and I knew that would not be my last time in Israel.

Crash kills three; raises questions

One month after the crash that killed three teens, some wonder if we will ever learn the seriousness of drunk driving and whether the 'Every 15 Minutes' program helps.

By Angela Jupp,
Green Valley HS

Only 45 days after the anti-drunk-driving program "Every 15 Minutes" took place at Green Valley High School, the student body received a real taste of death. A crash under investigation killed three area teenagers and seriously injured two others.

The crash, which occurred in the early morning of Nov. 10, left GVHS sophomore Travis Dunning and Coronado High School sophomores Josh Parry and Kyle Poff dead, and GVHS sophomores Sean Larimer and Cody Fredericks seriously injured.

As students returned from a four-day weekend to a school mourning the loss of three of their peers, questions immediately arose about the effectiveness of the "Every 15 Minutes" program. Students and adults alike pointed out that those involved in the Nov. 10 crash were not a part of the program presented exclusively to upperclassmen in late September and therefore were not given the chance to learn from it.

"They didn't really see it and see what happens [at the staged crash scene] to get the full effect that the juniors and seniors did," says Green Valley freshman Michael Sclafani. "They might have just taken what they did see for a joke or not really cared."

Sgt. Dave Kerwan of the Henderson Police Dept., an officer in charge of the program, explained that the freshman and sophomore classes were not purposely left out, but rather that lack of funds forced the HPD to exclude them.

"The money does not exist to

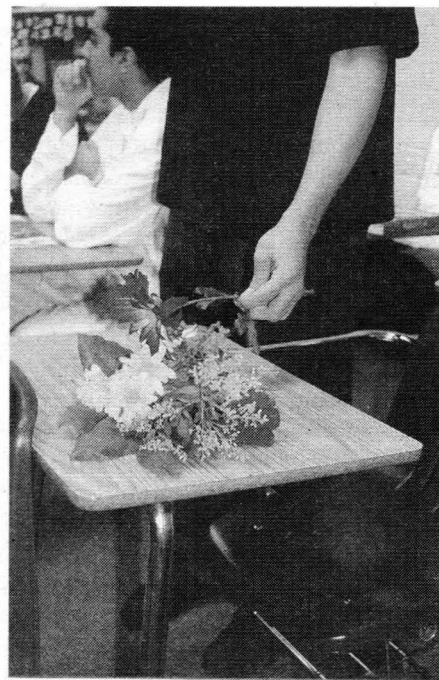


Photo for this story by Stephanie Espinoza.

do this and include every class, especially at a school as big as Green Valley," says Kerwan. "The money just isn't there."

Even if the underclassmen had witnessed the presentation, however, many students remain skeptical about whether or not anything could have prevented such a crash from occurring.

"Something like this had to happen for people to realize that it's real and that it is so dangerous," says Green Valley freshman Samantha Sajna.

Sclafani agrees. "Kids listen for the moment that they are told not to drink and drive," he says. "But when they are actually in the situation, they think they are fine, and they worry about getting in trouble if they don't get home in time."

Even though some feel nothing can be done to prevent teenagers from driving drunk, the "Every 15 Minutes" crew felt they had to try. Kerwan and partner Officer Frank Hull returned to GVHS Dec. 3 to present an assembly to the freshman and sophomore classes.

Whether or not the students responded to the presentation was once again in question. As four students shared their experiences from the September program, the administration noticed a lack of attention from many students.

"When I looked around, I saw some of the students laughing and talking," says Green Valley Dean Jackie Carducci. "I couldn't believe that they weren't taking this serious. They had just lost a fellow classmate, and the seriousness of it all didn't seem to phase them."

Regardless of the responses from some students, Kerwan

Continued on page 6

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Crash

Continued from page 5

does not feel like his efforts were in vain.

"It's important to try to prevent things from happening. That's why we do it," he says. "But there's not a 100-percent success rate. We can't teach everybody."

If even one person hears his message, Kerwan says, then the program is not a failure. The officers Kerwan works with share this same sentiment, with students' lives as their number one

priority.

"It's a rough lesson to learn, the death of teenagers to drunk driving," says Kerwan. "We tried to make an easier lesson to learn by using students as 'actors' ... because we knew the next time it would be real."

Regardless of its causes, over a month after the crash, the community both inside and outside GVHS continues to mourn the three young men they lost.

As late as three weeks after the crash, flowers, cards and candles were added each day to the makeshift memorial at the crash site on Silver Springs Parkway. Visitors stopped by every evening to light the dozens of candles clustered there.

Dunning was a student in business teacher Lonna Shultz's third-period class. Her class's atmosphere has certainly changed as her students cope with the loss of a friend and classmate, she said.

"They put flowers on the desk for a while after it happened," she says. "And now, I don't even think anyone sits there all day. That was Travis' seat."

Shultz herself has been affected in a similar way.

"I can't find it in me to erase Travis' name in my grade book," she says. "I just put a little heart around it instead."

letters

Peer pressure

To the editor:

I recently read an article in the December issue of CLASS! about peer pressure and how the choice was still yours. Lori Valiente, a Las Vegas High School student, was the author of this story titled, "When it comes to peer pressure, the choice is up to you."

A question ran through my mind as I was reading this story: If you are truly under "peer pressure," yet you still have the ability to decide whether or not you will give into it, is that real pressure at all? Her article would answer the question as yes, while my answer is no.

If you are under pressure, you do not know what choice you want to make. You know what you have been told and what the other person wants you to say, but how do you really know what you want? Pressure, especially from your friends, is harder to overcome and makes the choice you wish to make harder because pressure is repeated over and over again until you feel like you have to give in. Valiente made a point that in time, saying no will not be so difficult. I disagree. Saying no will never be easy.

I am sorry that Lori Valiente had to witness the terrible tragedy of her friends dying in a car accident, and I am sure that it has given her the ability and the strength to withstand peer pressure; however, most teenagers do not go through this terrible trauma and so do not have the strength to easily say no.

*Rena Goldstein
Coronado HS*

Linkin Park rocks!

To the editor:

I couldn't believe what the student had to write about Linkin Park in the article, "What's wrong with the world? SpongeBob SquarePants." The lyrics may not be to his liking, but I know for a fact they have helped me through tough times along with many other people. I would like to know what he considers a "professional musician." I am sorry that he thinks everything will be the

same and never evolve into new things. Yes, music has changed, maybe not to his liking, but he needs to move on and find something else to complain about.

*Vanessa Dick
Academy of Individualized
Study*

Evil SpongeBob

To the editor:

I would like to thank the author of "What's wrong with the world? SpongeBob SquarePants" for voicing his opinion on these latest crazes that seem to be plaguing young adults. He spoke for a lot of us who feel the same anguish toward the simplistic, idiotic nature of the fads that are so popular today.

Beginning with MTV, I agree fully that it is the sole evil behind the retarded styles of clothing and whiney music that's played a hundred times an hour. That brings me to my next point — Linkin Park. Perversion is the perfect word to describe the band and thank you for noting the immaturity of their "talent." Finally — SpongeBob. Honestly, I don't know where to begin. All I have to say is it's probably going to get worse from here so brace yourself.

But hey, maybe a few of us who despise all these idiotic fads will find a way to put them to sleep for good.

*Matt Schelling
Foothill HS*

No Child Left Behind

To the editor:

A wonderful idea was attempted to be put into action. It was left as that — a wonderful idea.

George Bush put the No Child Left Behind Act into action nationwide without thinking logically. The United States does not have the money to support the act and makes teaching a more stressful environment.

I am in complete agreement with the author [April Corbin, Las Vegas HS] of the CLASS! article, "Common sense left behind with Bush's No Child Left Behind Act" when she says, "... it sounds like a good thing. The fault of the No

The CLASS! Scholarships are back!

This year, CLASS! gives you three opportunities to catch a cheaper ride to school. These scholarships are being offered to high school seniors interested in pursuing a degree in communication at an accredited college or university. A minimum 3.0 un-weighted cumulative GPA is required and students must demonstrate financial need. This year's awards are:

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**In addition to completing CLASS! Publications' requirements, applicants for MGM/MIRAGE Scholarships must be of a minority race or ethnicity. The MGM/MIRAGE Scholarships can be used for tuition or books.*

Applications must be received in the CLASS! office (not postmarked) by 5 p.m. on March 26, 2004.

Get a copy of the application from your school's counselor, or print your own copy from www.classmag.com. Call 895-1504 or email classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu for more information.

Child Left Behind Act is in its execution and standards.”

Parents and teachers alike need to take the time to view the act and put their votes in to repeal it. Such an act can be revised and made more efficient, but in our legal system, we first need to repeal the act before it can be revised. The act may have done great in Texas, but it is now failing.

The No Child Left Behind Act has great possibilities and excellent ideas. However, I feel that if it's revised properly, we can make it work.

Parents and teachers need to work together as well as putting their votes in to repeal the act as it stands. They need to write to legislators and inform them of ways to make it better. They are legislators, not teachers, and they need help with the act.

*Jeanelle Lacher
Foothill HS*

Conservative vs. liberal

To the editor:

I was looking through the December edition of CLASS! and came upon an article written by Joshua Chase of Community College HS, titled “Dude, Where’s My Country?” mocks motives behind U.S. foreign policy.” It’s a good book — if you’re liberal.

The book was written by Michael Moore who, if I remember, is the same person who was booed at the Oscars for calling our war and our president fictitious. Moore says he gets his quotes from magazines such as Newsweek and newspapers such as the New York Times, both of which are one-sided and liberal.

If you want to read a good book that has honest, true-to-the-heart facts, read “The Savage Nation,” written by conservative radio host Michael Savage.

[Chase’s article was good], but our current administration shouldn’t be questioned.

*Chris Allen
Foothill HS*

Music downloading

To the editor:

In CLASS! magazine of December 2003, there was an article titled “Music downloading should not be a crime,” and I happen to agree with everything

Daniel Steffey, the writer from Sierra Vista HS, had to say.

Steffey said that downloading music off the Internet should not be a crime because it helps the musicians get their music out to the public. There are a lot of people out in the world who cannot afford to pay \$20 for a CD, so by downloading, those people still have the chance to listen to the music.

Steffey was right when he said that musicians shouldn’t be able to sue students for this act. Yet, more and more college students are being punished for simple acts that only express how devoted they are to the music.

*Nicole Wallace
Foothill HS*

Absurd articles

To the editor:

As an avid CLASS! Magazine reader I must write to comment on this magazine’s absurd articles. Every month, when a new issue of CLASS! comes to the halls of Silverado, my fellow students and I pick up a copy to read around the lunch table. This is where curiosity is peaked, anger is aroused, and hope seems ever more distant. I genuinely hope that the magazine does not pride itself in its intellectuality or wit, because it is read among those I know only for its shock factor.

If I may, I will present a suggestion to the staff. Please stop publishing a majority of students who take writing lessons from the likes of Michael Moore, but rather, publish students who take writing lessons from their English teachers. I am tired of the unbecoming attempt of satire and sarcasm that only comes off as a sign of egotism rather than humor. I am also tired of reading articles by those who abuse their large, confused vocabulary, and, as a result, produce articles filled with redundancy or incoherence.

Do not be alarmed. My colleagues and I will not cease to read your magazine if changes are not made. Our deadly curiosity will still keep us wondering, “How can they write anything more meaningless?” and we will yet again be enlightened of our sad surroundings.

*Beauregard Bahnam
Silverado HS*

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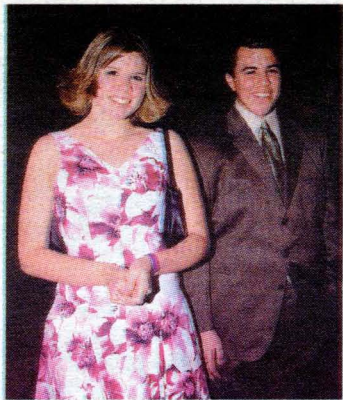
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Dressed to kill are Heather and Charles Trujillo, Green Valley HS; De'Anna Jones, April Corbin and Linzie Kunkel from Las Vegas HS pose with CLASS!'s October 2003 cover; Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS,

spoke to the crowd about her work as a CLASS! intern; and smiles all around from Rachel Sanman and Brittany Jaarsma, Centennial HS.

Students, community leaders attend annual 'Evening with CLASS!' gala

By Joshua Chase, Community College HS

CLASS! Publications hosted its fifth annual fund-raising event, "An Evening with CLASS!" at the Four Seasons Hotel on Jan. 10, 2004. Among the guests, more than 30 high school students from across Clark County attended the gala event.

The night began with cocktails and a silent auction. An Andre Agassi signed tennis racquet was the highest bid item, bringing in over \$1,000. During the auction and cocktail hour, Bonanza High School's Chamber Orchestra provided the music.

Natalie Minev, a junior at Community College High School, participated with me in an interview session with the event's guest speaker, Linda Ellerbee. Ellerbee, a former Associated Press writer and NBC and ABC anchor, has been working with children since 1991, when her company, Lucky Duck Productions began producing the successful series, "Nick News."

Ellerbee answered questions ranging from her experiences in both education and journalism to her views on the youth of today.

"Your generation I find to be much more involved than the generation between mine and yours," she said.

Jim Snyder and Nina Radetich, both news anchors for KVBC Channel 3, were the event's masters of ceremonies. Stephanie Hartman, a Centennial High School junior and CLASS! intern, had the honor of introducing Ellerbee, who made a speech titled,

"Adventures in Journalism."

After the speech, Ellerbee answered questions from various Clark County students.

When asked about her role-model status, Ellerbee replied, "[I'm] terribly unqualified. I shouldn't be anyone's role model."

Another student asked what motivates the veteran journalist. To this, Ellerbee answered, "Endless, boundless curiosity."

Students not only enjoyed attending the event, they also gained some valuable career and life advice from Ellerbee.

"As a future TV reporter, there was a comment she made that I will surely apply to my career," says CLASS! Diganos editor Lina Hernandez. "Don't mix feelings with your work. Take one day at a time and have the courage to fight against the barriers that will come your way because there will be many."

"This was an incredible opportunity," says Hartman. "I was so honored to be part of the event and it was really a great experience I'll never forget."

Overall, the evening was a success. It not only raised money for a great cause, but it allowed students and aspiring journalists to benefit from the knowledge of an accomplished journalist and incredible person. There's no denying that we all learned something that night.

When asked what she has learned from the numerous young people she's worked with, Ellerbee simply stated, "How smart they are."



'Make an impact'

TV producer Linda Ellerbee encourages local students to change the world

By Natalie Minev, Community College HS

Linda Ellerbee, the award-winning host, writer and producer of Nickelodeon's "Nick News," was the special guest at CLASS! Publications' fifth annual fundraising event, "An Evening with CLASS!" at the Four Seasons Hotel on Jan. 10, 2004. Ellerbee offered useful and timely advice to the high school students and young journalists who attended the banquet.

As CLASS! interns, fellow

Community College High School student Joshua Chase and I had the privilege of interviewing Ellerbee with a small audience of high school students before the dinner event. Learning about her unique experiences in both life and in journalism was truly inspiring to those present.

Ellerbee lightheartedly reminisced about her high school days during the interview, while still remembering how tough it is to be a teenager.

"[High school] was painful,"



Linda Ellerbee, center, responds to interview questions from CLASS! reporters Natalie Minev and Josh Chase. Both students attend Community College HS.

she recalled. "I remember wanting to be something I wasn't. I remember wanting to be popular, but also wanting to do well. I made extremely good grades and was very outspoken, but I was not popular."

Growing up in Dallas, Texas, Ellerbee says her family helped pave her path to a career in journalism.

"I grew up in a family of storytellers," she says. "At an early age, I knew how to tell a story."

Although she never received a college degree, Ellerbee spent two years at Vanderbilt University as a history major. Though a degree was not necessary for her to achieve success, she said it still has great value to stu-

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dents.

"College makes more civilized, living, participating human beings," she told the audience.

Ellerbee's first jobs included working in radio and in print journalism. In college, she worked as the school newspaper's editorial cartoonist.

"In my time, girls went to college to catch a husband," says Ellerbee. "A career was something to fall back on."

Ellerbee married and had two children, but when she and her husband divorced, she found herself in search of not just something to fall back on, but some way to survive. She found herself "falling back on" the words of her high school English teacher and "hero" who had told her when she was a teen, "You are a writer. You will write."

Ellerbee sent out résumés to numerous news organizations and after many rejections, obtained a job in the Dallas Bureau of the Associated Press.

How she broke into broadcast journalism was, in fact, an accident.

"I wrote a nasty letter to a friend complaining about news organizations and the treatment of women at the time, and it accidentally ended up on the AP newswire, transmitted all over the country," explains Ellerbee. "Not surprisingly, I got fired."

However, the boss at one of the broadcast news organizations that Ellerbee had particularly singled out for criticism found her writing so funny that

he offered her a job, and Ellerbee's career took off after that.

Ellerbee says she chose a career in journalism because she wanted "a job that pays you to travel and meet the most interesting people in the world."

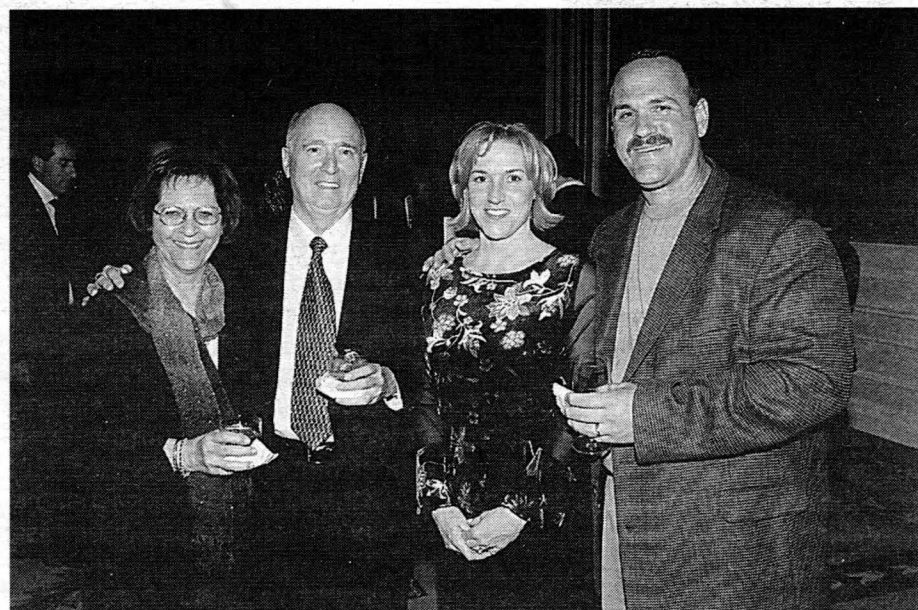
Throughout the interview, Ellerbee was extremely open, friendly and seemed to be on the same wavelength as teenagers. She threw in humorous anecdotes and stories of her own experiences.

Her advice to young journalists was, "When you go off to college, don't major in journalism. Study history, political science, languages, art and literature. Know as much as possible. What you need to know for journalism, you'll learn on the job."

Working in journalism and as a television host for many years on award-winning programs such as "Nick News" and NBC's "Overnight," Ellerbee stressed that the most important thing was "to respect the viewer or the listener or the reader. [There are many television anchors who] think they are smarter than their audience, and they talk down to them. If you do that, you're lost," she says. "I always believed that [every viewer] has at least as much sense as I did."

Ellerbee encouraged all young people to make an impact on the world and on society.

"I know [young people] can impact society," she says. "I have seen stories about young people changing the world around them. They can do it."



Founding family: CLASS! co-founders Sari and Paul Aizley, left, and David Phillips with his wife Mary, right, celebrate almost 10 years of CLASS! at its annual fundraising event.

Read all about it

CLASS! delivers a decade of news by, for and about you



By Ariel Gove,
Las Vegas HS

As you sit and read this publication, you may have wondered why it exists, who's behind it and how it gets out to you every month. This article will answer your questions by telling you not only how CLASS! started nearly 10 years ago, but how you can be part of its future.

The idea for this publication came from David Phillips, a professional photographer and Bishop Gorman High School graduate, who volunteers his free time to teach high school students about photography.

"I loved the energy the students had," says Phillips. "I loved that they had such great ideas on so many issues and wrote them so eloquently in their own school papers, and that they understood the power a journalist could possess."

Through his work with the schools, he realized that students from all the different high schools could relate to each other through their common activities and experiences. He thought about producing a newspaper that could go into all high schools to report student news and opinions at the differ-

ent schools.

Phillips imagined a publication that was a place to swap ideas, stories, opinions, personal struggles and personal achievements with their peers on a grand scale.

"I wanted high school students to be able to identify with other teens from other schools — in essence, make the giant world of the CCSD high schools a little bit smaller by bringing everyone together in print," says Phillips.

Phillips recruited his parents to help make his vision a reality: Sari Aizley, a journalist and editor, and Paul Aizley, then Dean of UNLV's Continuing Education Division.

"Las Vegas was not offering much for teenagers," says Paul Aizley. "We knew that CLASS! would be an asset for high school kids in even more ways than just communication. For example, writing for CLASS! was an achievement that these young journalists could put on their applications for college or for employment."

To get the publication started, there were many barriers to overcome. One was getting approval from every single principal at every school as well as from every library and other location where CLASS! is distributed. The journalism

Continued on page 10



CLASS! interns and a few friends gather with Linda Ellerbee after the interview. Kneeling, Danny Gobaud, LV Academy; Ryan David Foster, Centennial HS; and Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS. Standing, from left: Michael Gobaud, LV Academy; Riley Marriage, Coronado HS; Alysen Clarke, LV Academy; Ellerbee; Charles Trujillo, Green Valley HS; Natalie Minev, Community College HS; Josh Chase, Community College HS; Heather Trujillo, Green Valley HS; Mytae Carrasco, Bishop Gorman; Stephanie Espinoza, Green Valley HS.

CLASS! history

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teacher at each school had to be convinced that it was worth his or her time to compile and send students' stories each month.

A prestigious board of directors was assembled to oversee this venture and to provide resources and funding for the newspaper. Within six months, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service awarded CLASS! its non-profit status as a community service organization.

The real beginnings

CLASS! began in a small guest room in the Aizleys' home. It remained there until UNLV offered CLASS! new office space on campus in exchange for a monthly advertisement. For the first year, Phillips and the Aizleys provided the labor and funding to make this venture work.

The idea quickly caught on, and it became clear that CLASS! would fulfill a large, unmet need in the community.

"After talking with dozens of teenagers, educators, other journalists and friends, there was no question — we had to create CLASS!," says Sari Aizley, founding editor of CLASS!.

CLASS! provided young writers with a place to showcase their work. Positive news

about teens got attention instead of negative stereotypes, and student journalists had a connection to the professional journalism world, where they could learn about their future careers.

Many prominent community leaders also saw the value of CLASS!. People such as Nevada Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley, the founding president of CLASS!; County Commissioner Myrna Williams, a member of the founding board; Sen. Harry Reid; Congresswoman Shelley Berkley; and developer Mark Fine — as well as numerous other business leaders and members of the education community — have been supporters of CLASS! for many years and are regular readers of CLASS!.

Elaine Wynn, director of Wynn Resorts, has been involved with CLASS! for nearly a decade.

"I support CLASS! because it is a wonderful way for students to communicate to one another across the valley and bridge the gap that is created by geographical separation," says Wynn. "Any time we can provide a way for young people to engage in developing their community skills, it's a good thing to support."

Though participation in CLASS! is open to all high school students in Clark County, its roots were in journalism classes throughout the county from Indian Springs to Boulder City. Through the support of principals, journalism teachers and students, CLASS! grew into a publication with a distribution of 33,000 copies each school month. This non-profit organization also provides internships, workshops and scholarships to high school students.

Dr. Patrice Johnson, principal at Las Vegas High School, believes that CLASS! "allows students to have an audience to



The very first CLASS! was published November 1994.

express their advanced journalistic abilities and that their opinions can be turned into actions toward the betterment of our society."

LVHS journalism adviser April Powell agrees that CLASS! offers students a place to voice their ideas about the world they live in.

"Youth can change the things that are wrong," says Powell. "They have a youthful exuberance and energy to get more things done."

"CLASS! is an open forum where students can identify with each other," says Phillips. "They can see that they are not the only ones who have been victims of date rape, or that they aren't the only teenage mothers struggling to get through their sophomore year, or the only ones dealing with a nasty divorce. Sometimes just understanding that they are not alone will make the difference."

Thousands of students have benefited from CLASS! programs throughout its ten-year history. From writing workshops to full-ride scholarships, CLASS! and its community partners offer students a variety of opportunities beyond a forum to express ideas.

Unique in all the land

"CLASS! is a unique publication that allows teenagers to speak out on the issues they feel are important, proving to the world that our generation has minds of which we can be proud," says Green Valley High School senior Stephanie Espinoza. "It is valuable to teens and to me because new points of view can be learned from so many voices, and everyone who gets published in CLASS! has the opportunity to teach."

"I became involved with CLASS! because it's a great way to help me get where I want to go in life," says Joshua

Chase, a senior at Community College High School, who is majoring in journalism.

The best way for a student to get the most out of CLASS! is to start by reading it. Read what your peers are writing about and learn from it. They are writing about the issues affecting teenagers in Nevada and everywhere. Instead of reading what some adult thinks is going on with teens, find out the truth from people who share your concerns and experiences, or who have overcome problems you may be facing right now.

As Nevada Sen. Barbara Cegavske, a CLASS! Honorary Board member, says, "Students know the issues that face them better than anyone."

If you are a teenager with something to say, CLASS! is your place to say it, regardless of whether or not you've ever had a journalism class. Why not make the most of this opportunity? Go "inside," do research, get the details you need, and write your own story about something you've always wanted to know. Send it to CLASS! and get published. Use your power and your civil rights to find out the truth about what matters to you and let others know too.

"CLASS! is the only publication I can think of that not only allows the students full reign to explore story options, but also allows students the freedoms to feel like independent writers," says Rachel Hommel, a junior at Green Valley High School. "It puts your work out there, helps you discover your talents in a safe environment, and with time, can boost a student's maturity level."

"Journalists have an incredible tool at their fingertips, and if used responsibly, they can influence hundreds, thousands, even millions with their journalistic talents," says Phillips. "You feed your mind when you read, and you feed your mind when you write. How can you go wrong?"

CLASS! helps unify us teens as a community within our community. It lets us join together in our struggles and get a little hope from each other's successes.

For more information about how you can get involved with CLASS!, call 895-1504, e-mail classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu or visit the Web site at www.classmag.com.



An archive file photo of co-founders Sari Aizley and David Phillips. Both continue to be involved with CLASS!

Media influence taints political process

Stand for the Pledge that stands for your freedom

It isn't often that we stop to think about what we are saying and its importance

By Amber Schirling, Sierra Vista HS

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance." After hearing these familiar words, I looked around my classroom and was disappointed to see a number of students remaining in their seats. I blame it on society's increase in "Anti-American" views. Lately, it has become a trend to be Anti-American. We see it all over the media, with celebrities, and every day in our own schools.

I am truly upset at this situation and feel as though we have forgotten the meaning of the Pledge and the symbolism of the American flag. Does the flag represent President Bush? Does it represent our current actions against Iraq? Or how about the government in general? The answer to these questions is no.

Our flag was not created to give glory to any president, war situation or government official. So why do people who are against those situations and political officers choose not to say the Pledge? I like to think they are simply misinformed or under the wrong impression.

The flag was made out of respect for the land of the free and is a symbol of pride. It represents every American soldier who has selflessly and courageously given his or her life as a sacrifice to protect the citizens of this country. American soldiers did not die just for those who support American policies. They died for each and every one of us, so shouldn't all of us show our appreciation to them?

As for the exact diction and meaning of the Pledge itself, what is so wrong with saying it? Maybe you do not support some of today's foreign or domestic policies, but surely you have a respect for the founding fathers and the republic this country is based on. This is the same government that provides us with a good quality of life and a large amount of freedom.

Of course there is the controversial line "Under God." I won't say my opinion either way on that issue, but how hard is it to refrain from saying two words that you might not agree with or believe in? Is it worth not saying the entire Pledge?

There will always be something that offends one group or another in any document or tradition. Compromises must be made. If you choose to say those words, great; if not, then remain silent for that section.

Some others simply do not stand and recite the Pledge out of pure laziness. Hearing the Pledge every day has become all too routine for some, and it isn't often that we stop to think about what we are saying and its importance. Our country was built with many risks and the Pledge helps to remind us of those sacrifices and hardships we have overcome together as a country. I hardly think it is too much to take a few seconds and show appreciation to our country and the soldiers who put their lives on the line 24-hours a day.

All I ask is for you to reconsider your reasoning for not participating in the Pledge of Allegiance. Rethink what the flag and Pledge truly represent. Think of those who went through great pain for your safety and freedom. Do not follow the common trend of becoming Anti-American simply because it's cool these days. Think for yourselves! And for those of you who disagree with reciting the Pledge, I encourage you to simply stand silently in respect. It's the least you can do.

By Eric Alder, Mojave HS



In light of the recent political events such as the California governor recall, the war in Iraq, and even alleged violations by members of the Clark County Commission, news groups such as CNN, Fox News, and local news stations have been having a field day. But has it gotten to the point that the media have become too involved, almost like an unofficial fourth branch of the U.S. government?

"The media carry a partial check of the government, but it's more or less influential on the common man," says Mojave High School Social Studies Chairman and Government AP teacher Jeff Leach.

The media groups, such as the conservative-friendly Fox News and liberal-based CNN, take everyday political happenings and spin the stories to focus on how certain groups would want to hear it, causing many politicians to be careful of what they say or how they say it.

For example, with the recent capture of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, news stations everywhere immediately turned their attention, focusing on the political effects of it even just minutes after the news came in.

"I don't think the media are a fourth branch, but they do cause politicians to be highly careful, especially Republicans or supporters of the recently criticized Bush administration," says Mojave senior Taylor Sellers.

All political parties, however, have one common goal, and that's to persuade people to vote in their direction.

"The news is reported in such a way that the government influences the media, therefore influencing the people of America, almost like a pawn in chess," says Mojave Broadcast Journalism teacher and former News 3 reporter Carmen Brookins-House.

"News groups choose entertainment over news," says Leach. "They're after a certain group of people."

With entertainment news

shows such as "Entertainment Tonight," political issues seen on CNN are made easier to understand and spun with a more fanciful approach. Numerous times, "Entertainment Tonight" focused on what Arnold Schwarzenegger did previous to his run for governor, such as his movies and accusations of sexual harassment, rather than what he was going to do for the problems in California.

Political parties have to use the entertainment media to catch their viewers or readers if they want to keep them informed.

"I've really never watched any political issues on TV unless my mom is watching it. It's just boring to me," says Mojave freshman Steffanie Bowen. "If it's on MTV or something like that, then I watch."

For years, the media have become a more influential backdrop for politicians since they no longer have to worry about going everywhere in the country to promote themselves. One speech will be played hundreds of times for days after it has been presented.

Each media group is generating its own influence when it comes to the presidential campaign race of 2004. Some members of the news believe that President Bush is surefire to win the race since Hussein's capture and Bush's surprise visit to the soldiers in Iraq on Thanksgiving Day last year. Others believe that Bush dug himself in too deep by being in Iraq in the first place.

Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean has recently been under fire from the other candidates during the Democratic debates in Iowa and New Hampshire, and because they were aired on national television, the common man now has the capability to see what these candidates are truly about, helping some, but constraining others.

If the media continue to be a part of the government the way they have been allowed to, drastic changes could occur in the way the American government is run. The media are a powerful and influential tool that politicians have learned to use.

Homeless situation can no longer be ignored

By Harmoni La Huillier,
Sierra Vista HS

Las Vegas, the city of lights, grandeur and exposure — everything is out in the open and revealed for all to see. Yet one aspect of our city remains obscure to many of us, either because we choose not to see it, or we are simply ignorant.

This aspect is the homeless population of Las Vegas, or the invisible population. Las Vegas has more than one million people living in it, and approximately 10,000 of them are homeless.

Now, I said that the homeless are the “invisible population,” but in fact, you probably see them often, possibly standing on the side of a busy street, carrying a cardboard sign, or walking in the hot sun, carrying all they have in a backpack. They are not invisible because no one sees them. What makes them invisible is people’s disregard.

When one sees a person sitting on a curb with a sign, holding out his or her hands for money at an intersection, a natural reaction is to turn away and to pretend he or she isn’t there, that you never even saw that person. It cannot be denied or ignored that the homeless are part of our city. They are citizens, they are people, and they cannot just be brushed aside like litter on a street.

Throughout his career as mayor of Las Vegas, Oscar Goodman has instituted a number of regulations targeting the homeless. He has installed the homeless “sweeps” that have been an issue throughout the city. Jaywalking, loitering and other acts of this sort are penalized with severe punishments, and in some cases jailing.

In his 2002 State of the City address, Goodman said the homeless were “robbing people, raping people, and killing their own.”

This statement is highly

prejudiced and discriminating. You cannot judge a whole group of people by the actions of a few.

It is true that some homeless are in their situation by their own choice, but this is an extremely low percentage. Most do not want to be homeless. Most want jobs, but because of

The fastest growing branch of homeless is small families, usually only a mother and two children under the age of 6.

their condition, it is tremendously difficult to attain them. The street is not a home.

The average age of homeless individuals is 9 years old. The fastest growing branch of homeless is small families, usually only a mother and two children under the age of 6. Homeless people are usually not dangerous. They are the ones who are vulnerable, and often subjects of violence and hate crimes.

With the rapid increase of laws against the homeless, there is a surprising decrease in shelters, soup kitchens and organizations to help the homeless get back on their feet. This

year alone there are 300 fewer shelter beds than in 2002. Many shelters have been forced to close due to lack of funding. There are no emergency shelters for weather extremes.

The excuse for the absence of these shelters is the lack of money, but it is a fact that arresting, processing and jailing the homeless costs more than funding organizations to help them.

Goodman’s past proposal to ship all the homeless individuals to an abandoned area outside of town is absurd. This is extreme and in no way solves the homeless situation. Just getting rid of the people is not ethically right or logical. The only way to “get rid” of the homeless is to help them. When a homeless person is cared for and possibly given a job, he or she can slowly provide for him or herself. Is this not decreasing the homeless population?

It is our job as the citizens of Las Vegas to help these people. We cannot depend on the mayor or the government to provide everything. It is our responsibility to make sure our town has sufficient organizations and charity programs. Our hearts should be turned to those in need. We cannot ignore these people forever.

Our town should fix this issue, not by arresting, criminalizing and expelling the homeless. The only solution is to care for and help them.

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Teens need teachers who care

By Heather Moldonado, Foothill HS

One problem many students have to deal with is teachers who just pass out papers or give assignments without explaining them. The material we are required to know nowadays should have a good explanation because some of it seems so confusing to learn.

It is one thing to have a teacher who explains a lesson in many different ways because maybe the student will catch on with one of the explanations. How can teachers expect students to understand a lesson that they just throw on the students’ desks without any explanation?

Many students feel that they can only succeed at something if they understand what they are doing. It is the teacher’s responsibility to at least help students to understand, not just expect us to understand.

Most students want to do well to show that they are good at something. It can also give their self-confidence a boost because all people, from kids to adults, feel good about themselves when they succeed at something and can show other people what they are good at.

Teachers have a lot on their plates, but for students, it’s better to look forward to something than to look forward to nothing. Teachers have the power to give us something to look forward to.

Teens should not be tried as adults

By Heather Trujillo,
Green Valley HS



There are many ages that young people look forward to in their lives: when they are 13 and teenagers, when they are 16 and can drive, and probably most important, when they turn 18 and are adults.

Most teens look forward to this rite of passage, anxiously awaiting it since the time they entered high school. When they are 18, they can graduate, go off to college, get their own place, vote and legally not be under their parent's control. However, being an adult may come early to some teens confronting the legal system.

The date Nov. 10, 2003 is a day that is now infamous around Green Valley and Coronado High School campuses. At midnight on this day, three students were killed and two were injured when their car hit a wall.

Some Nevada officials think that it is time an example is made to other teens using the 16-year-old driver of the doomed vehicle. They do not want just to charge him with a crime — they want to try him in court as an adult.

From the dictionary, an adult is a grown up/mature person of at least the age of 18. According to this definition, however, the driver of the car was not an adult but a teenager, one who is between the ages of 12 and 18 and is developing into an adult.

This does not seem reason enough to some Nevada officials, however, to try the driver as a juvenile. They believe that he made a mistake and if he is punished to the max, others may think twice before making bad decisions on the road.

The problem I see with this is that he is not an adult, and if you're going to call him

that, give him and other teens adult privileges: Let us vote, let us get our own apartments and do other adult actions. We are teenagers for a reason. This is really the time in our lives for us to make mistakes and learn from them, not to make one big mistake and go to prison for the majority of our lives because of it.

Since he is a teenager, let him learn from this and move on. Yes, drinking and driving is against the law and he should have to pay the price like any other person, but not as an adult because, legally, he is not one.

In my opinion, the point these officials are missing is what other teens think. Yes, we are sorry that these three teens died so young; the accident may have been prevented, but it wasn't and this needs to be taken into consideration. Plus, the driver was the best friend of these kids; no one will ever be able to put him through as much hell as he is putting himself through right now, and probably for the rest of his life. Shouldn't that be enough?

Doctors are always saying that small things parents do can psychologically scar their children for life. How are we helping this situation by trying to put this kid in jail for 20 years or more?

I also think that if you are going to try to take this situation to an extreme, you must look at the background of the individual. It is one thing if he is a troublemaker who is constantly caught drinking, ditching class, fighting, etc, but it is quite another thing to try to prosecute someone this harshly if he has an otherwise clean record.

Usually, these types of good performances are rewarded, and these students become some of the future leaders of the world. By not giving this teen an opportunity to redeem himself, they could be harming his future greatly and throwing away another life.



I think the biggest mistake with trying to charge any teen as an adult is the fact that we think differently than adults. For one thing, many teens are not as mature and have not been through as many life-shaping events as most adults. We have a very narrow perspective on life that is based mainly on the opinions and views of our friends, families and teachers.

The main thing is that we think, "This will never happen to me." It may affect us when something this tragic happens, and it may hit us that "Hey, they were our age," but no matter what anyone says, to us, we are invincible. By trying to charge this teen as an adult, you're really not setting an example because we think this can't happen to us.

Even though this decision is still up in the air, I think that these things should seriously be taken into consideration when deciding if the driver should be charged as an adult. I don't agree with people trying to prosecute any teen as an adult to make an examples of him or her. The thing that should be taken into major consideration is where should the line between being an adult and being a teen be drawn?

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A kiss is just a kiss: Public displays of affection cause unnecessary concern

By Stephanie Hartman, Centennial HS



Seeing, reading or even hearing the acronym "PDA" stirs several questions in the minds of adolescents such as: What is "PDA?" Is it good? Bad? Dangerous? Do I have it? Can it be transmitted?

Well, it's not a disease, merely a reference to activities that relay the emotions of two people to a bystander.

"PDA" stands for Public Display of Affection, the overt display of emotions. Activities categorized under this heading could include, but are not necessarily limited to, handholding, casually wrapping one's arm around another individual's body, and even the slightest peck on a cheek or lips. All gestures that would show even a glint of a relationship other than a cordial formality of recognition are considered PDA.

Unlike liberal European schools that allow kissing as an action for greeting and departing, schools in the United States look past this long-established part of the world's culture, and promote more conservative views. In comparison to the European way, American schools have only slightly wavering tolerance for this type of activity.

Knowing this, why is it then that many students and members of school staffs choose to condone this category of activities? In every scenario, there are individuals who choose to carry out the policy of prohibiting PDA. However, more lenient coworkers at some schools quickly counter those efforts by not enforcing the rule. These mixed signals prove to be quite confusing for students.

From the time when their educational careers commenced, students were not formerly made aware of PDA rules. It's not uncommon on grade-school grounds to witness two good friends holding hands as they walk around a lunch hour or to see students hugging a teacher. Time passes; the stu-

dent matures into his or her adolescent stage, enters high school and simply continues to behave as he or she has done in the past.

While the teenager continues with these assumed-to-be "acceptable" activities, in high school, he or she may encounter one teacher who discourages the behavior and others who don't. The student is left wondering, "What is going on?" If public displays of affection didn't disrupt learning patterns in the preceding years and wasn't an issue before, why then would a hug or kiss disrupt the learning environment of a school now?

Having the policy interpreted on a teacher-by-teacher basis generates more frustrations for students and does more bad than good. Has one teacher gone overboard with the rules or has the other simply given up all hope and is satisfied with being too lenient?

Instructors who choose to enforce the rule are presumably only trying to look after the welfare and best interest of their students. Warning students of the possible consequences of persisting in prohibited behavior is a part of a teacher's job.

However, much of the time, teachers' efforts to restrict PDA prove fruitless, as again and again, teenagers pay no mind to the warnings of their elders. Students understand that the teacher has lived longer and experienced more, and more fully understands the consequences of unhealthy, unwise behavior. However, it's difficult to make any teen believe that a once wonderful student can be drastically transformed by a hug or kiss into being physically dependent on another person, leading to irrationality and countless hours of partying that open doors to various illegal activities and disease. Will students grow up to be failures because of an innocent goodbye kiss at school?

When the issue of PDA was discussed with teenagers' parents, their reaction was not of indifference nor even genuine concern, but a supportive acknowledgment filled with their

own stories of past Public Displays of Affection.

Showing affection toward another individual is human nature, and it's something that occurs more with each passing day in teenagers' lives. As long as students aren't playing tonil hockey on school grounds, a whole fiasco shouldn't be created by well intentioned, though misguided, teachers bent on enforcing rules. To a re-

spectable extent, handholding, hugging and innocent kisses should be acceptable school-wide, not because students will continue with this activity regardless of teachers' efforts to control it, but because these things aren't as serious as they are made out to be.

It all boils down to this: An innocent kiss is still an innocent kiss, even if three hundred people are watching.

Same-sex couples seek fundamental rights

By Jeremy Stoker, Foothill HS

Those who support gay marriage have constantly screamed that laws opposing gay marriages are "unconstitutional," that they are a form of "stereotypical discrimination" and that "zero health benefits" are unfair. Although I support gay marriage, I feel this topic is much deeper than it appears at first sight.

The Ninth Amendment allows states the right to set marriage standards with majority votes. Although I do not feel this is "unconstitutional," I find a problem with this topic in the Constitution. The Constitution needs to be amended so these marriages can happen, whether or not the majority of a state's residents agree. For example, while a majority of Southern states opposed making slavery illegal, the government, and those with common sense, made it otherwise.

Banning gay marriage is barefaced discrimination.

"By telling a person that they can't get married, you tell them and the entire world that there is something gravely wrong with them," says Jeremy Waller, a student at Foothill High School. "It is the same as telling a person that they can't get married because they like the color blue."

Some in favor of banning gay marriage claim that too many gays die from AIDS-related illnesses, and that by banning gay marriage, they can prevent or reduce AIDS-related fatalities. If this makes sense, why don't we ban marriages for couples that smoke? Studies show that smoking kills more people in a month than AIDS does in half a year. And even if these deaths were substantial, a marriage ban wouldn't prevent people from having sex.

Gay marriage opponents also feel that partners of gay employees should not receive employee benefits like married couples.

"Every married couple gets benefits for living together and supporting each other," says Foothill student James Gurnis. "If a state does not recognize gay marriages, then these couples don't get any benefits, the benefits entitled to couples by law."

This is exactly right. Certain tax reductions, health benefits and governmental support aren't given to gay couples only because they love someone of the same sex. It isn't right to take away someone's rights because of whom they love.

Some claim that gay marriage is sacrilegious.

"That may be true, but religion has nothing to do with government," says Foothill student Sydney Fox. "The constitution states that church and state are separate."

Religion can have nothing to do with politics or policies. Our founding fathers, most of whom sought relief from religious persecution, fought for that right. My own religion sides against gay marriage, but I also found that religious morals side with the idea of not stereotyping or judging others. I understand the simple idea of separation of church and state, so I don't find that issue relevant in the matter of banning gay marriage.

I admit that I do not believe gay marriage to be moral, but I believe in equal rights for all and that discrimination of individual groups is wrong. Gay marriage doesn't harm anyone and to say so makes one a terrorist who tramples on the rights of those who only seek the same rights as everybody else.

double talk

BATTLE OF THE SEXES:

What do men and women really want?

Men don't really want 'just one thing'

By Josh Sedillo,
Eldorado HS

Sex. Sex. Sex. Is that all that guys want? Some girls think so.

"All guys seem to be interested in is sex!" says Eldorado High School senior DreAnn Story.

What about girls? What do they want? They're always telling guys that they "wanna talk" or asking, "How come we never talk anymore?"

"My boyfriend never wants to have a deep conversation," says Eldorado sophomore Krista Perry. "He says we talk all the time, but all he ever wants to do are things that don't involve talk-

ing."

How did guys get the stereotype of being driven by sex? How did they get the rap for being in relationships just to "get some"? And do females really know what's going on in the mind of the guys they see every day?

"I will admit that sex is on my mind during the day, but that doesn't mean that all I care about is sex," says Eldorado junior Jeff Anderson.

Some guys try to act around other guys like all they care about is "getting some," but is that all guys really care about? Despite the stereotypes, it's probably not. Most guys try to get to know girls and develop a friendship on a personal level. But is all of that "nice-nice stuff" just to reach another goal?

"Even if a guy seems to be great, and you really connect with him, I think he is still probably only after that one thing that all guys want," says Kari Lichtenwalner, a junior at Eldorado.

Most girls seem to agree with Lichtenwalner. The idea that guys only want one thing is pretty prevalent among teen girls.

But when you ask guys if that's true, most would dis-

agree. Yes, they may put up a macho façade, but the reality is most guys really do care about more than that "one thing."

So when a guy is looking for a girlfriend, does physical attraction matter?

"It sounds shallow, but if you think about it, there has to be a physical attraction between the two or else you have nothing," says Eldorado junior Chase Bryan. "If you are not attracted to a person, then you really don't have anything, because you just think of her like any other person. Appearance isn't everything, but if there's no physical attraction, chances are you're not going to be interested in meet-

what guys want

ing that person."

Most guys think they know

what girls want in relationships. Girls want those simple, sweet, little things like flowers, even when there isn't any special occasion, or a surprise phone call to tell them to have a good day.

What about guys? Most guys couldn't care less about "romantic" gestures. What really makes a guy happy?

If a girl really wants to make a guy happy, all she has to do is try her best to make him feel good about their friendship. You don't have to go out and buy him stuff or anything like that. All you have to do to make him feel great is let him know that he makes you happy.

Maybe some guys are in the "boyfriend/girlfriend scene" just because they're only interested in "getting some," but that doesn't have anything to do with happiness. And that's what guys really want. They want to be with a girl who makes them happy.

Girls may think that all guys are dogs and that all they want is sex, but that's just not true. Sure, sex is a powerful force, but there's a lot more to life than just sex and most guys, even teenage guys, know that.

Women want a lot of little things

By Chelsea Bailey,
Eldorado HS

Chocolates. Flowers. Love letters.

Everyone knows what makes girls happy. But are these the things girls really want? Food when they should be on diets, flowers they're allergic to, and love letters that make them teary-eyed? Ask a guy and he'll probably answer, "Absolutely."

"It's the thought that counts," says a local mother of four about gifts from her spouse. "Even if my husband just gives me a kiss on the cheek before he leaves for work in the morning, it's better than nothing."

Eldorado High School senior Joanna Hayes agrees. "I want a guy who is sweet and does his best to make me happy," she says.

So what do women really want? Romance or friendship? Gifts or goodies? Looks or personality? Most guys, not to mention girls, aren't sure, and the question has confused human beings throughout history.

"If only I were able to read the mind of every girl," says Eldorado High School senior Shain Manuele, rubbing his head. "Mel Gibson had it great in that movie

'What Women Want,' making him irresistible."

Well, here's the deal, guys. What girls want more than anything is to be appreciated. Special presents, frequent calls, simple things like holding her hand during a scary movie — that's all she's looking for.

Step one is thanking her for everything she does for you. Comments that don't seem like much to you mean the world to her. Just grabbing her hand and smiling at her says a lot.

"I hate doing things for him when he doesn't even notice," says DreAnn Story, an Eldorado senior. "If I write him a note or give him a present, it

would be nice for him to at least say thank you. It wouldn't hurt if he kept the things I gave him either."

Step two? Have values. Whether you think so or not, a relationship can't really be a relationship if values aren't there. Girls are attracted to guys who do the right thing just because it's the right thing to do. A bad-boy reputation isn't always good. Be honest with each other. Don't lie. Accept her the way she is. Be humble. Humility is such a turn-on to most girls. Who wants the guy whose head is so big he can't go through the door? Be true to her, and be true to yourself.

A young businesswoman who recently graduated from college says, "Honesty is so important. If he doesn't want me to do something, then he needs to tell me! The best relationships are built on complete honesty and openness."

Attraction is a major factor. No, guys, you don't have to be that Abercrombie model who everyone gawks at. Yes, the truth is that physical attraction does matter, but a metal mouth could be just as wonderful as a toothpaste-ad smile. Every girl has her own tastes when it comes to looks. Skinny or athletic, dark or light, short or tall,

there's someone out there for everyone.

"If I like the guy, it doesn't matter to me if he's in his swimming suit, a tux, or his boxers," Eldorado student Nicole Shafer says.

So guys, get a clue. Remember: appreciation, values and physical attraction. One girl may love short notes while another likes long phone calls. Some girls want serious conversation while others just like snuggling up in front of a fire.

Here's the best advice of all: Friendship comes before anything. Get to know a person before getting physical. There will be plenty of time for romance. You know you've done it right when your girlfriend is also your best friend.

what girls want

Thong thing: Teens targeted for sexy skivvies

By Rebecca Webb and Ashley Barnes, Centennial HS

The bikini, the miniskirt and now — the thong. Today, the all-time sexiest piece of clothing is also the most recent “fad” in fashion.

Fashion historians believe the thong was introduced in the United States in the '30s and has grown in popularity because of its sleek invisibility and its power to eliminate panty lines under clothing. For an article of clothing that was meant to be so invisible, the thong is seen all too often today in low-rise jeans and hip huggers.

Karen Vanderhoof, a Centennial High School freshman, says, “I hate it when you can see the thongs that girls are wearing when they sit down, or even when they’re just walking around the school.”

During investigations regarding Monica Lewinsky and President Bill Clinton, it was revealed that on Nov. 15, 1995, when Lewinsky was flirting with the president, she lifted up her jacket to show him the straps of her thong. If she hadn’t shown him her thong, in an attempt to be sexy, the scandal between Lewinsky and Clinton may never have begun.

Although today thongs are hugely popular among teens, the older adult population seems to look down on them, saying they are unsanitary and demeaning toward women, teens especially.

Jan Webb, the mother of a Centennial freshman, says, “Thongs portray the wrong image and do not seem respectable.”

The thong has received its sexy image mainly from marketing. From magazines advertising tighter, shorter, more revealing clothes to Britney Spears portraying the image that wearing little to nothing is sexy, the thong is considered to be “hot.”

In an ABCNews.com article, Jane Buckingham of Youth Intelligence, a teen marketing firm, says, “There’s always something that is going to cause controversy. Teen marketing tries to push the edge.”

Even though thongs have been around since before Las Vegas showgirls were on the stage, they wouldn’t be so popular if the public didn’t want to wear them. The business world revolves around supply and demand.

In advertising, song lyrics, R-rated movies, books and everything else that we experience daily in our culture, sexuality is clearly evident. Although the fact that sex sells is yesterday’s news, the new audience for such “cool” ideas as thongs is becoming younger and younger.

Even Abercrombie & Fitch, a popular nationwide clothing line, is featuring thong underwear in their kids’ line, which targets young children from ages 7 to 14.

In the same ABCNews.com article, Bill Johnson, president of the family advocacy group the American Decency Association, says, “There is an ongoing trend to sexualize youth ... There are clearly a core of marketers who will go as low as they are permitted to go.”

Johnson also says that the thongs featured in the Abercrombie Kids line are “pornographic” and too racy for the young children they are intended for.

Thongs are perfectly acceptable when you are an adult, ready for commitment, sex and love, but not at age 7, 10, or even 14. That line has been crossed when you can go to the Victoria’s Secret Web site and have over 25 different varieties of thongs pop up on your screen, just waiting to be ordered by that little credit card. Credit card numbers don’t tell how old you are or if you are making your purchases in good taste.

Every generation has its fads and fashions, but, today, the thong might just be the sexiest of them all.



These days, Las Vegas showgirls aren't the only ones who are sporting thongs.

Looking good doesn't mean looking like someone else

By Bobby Jerbic, Faith Lutheran HS



Looks are something everybody thinks about, but do they really matter?

Of course they do. Though it is normal to dress well, do up hair and exercise to keep bodies looking good, some people take this matter to the extreme.

Many people put enormous amounts of makeup on and try to make themselves look like someone they have seen in a magazine. This is clearly not the solution to feeling good about yourself. Makeup is not a bad thing, but do people really need it? God created everyone to be different, so why should girls put on makeup to look like everyone else? Most girls look good without it, so why bother wearing it?

It feels as though sometimes people are talking with a mask on. They should try living without it. If girls absolutely can't go without makeup, then they should wear some in moderation, but they shouldn't get to the point that they look unrecognizable.

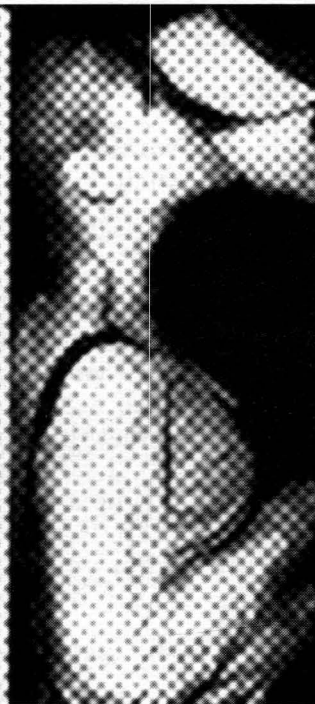
Also, many people diet until their clothes literally hang off them. Most people don't do this; it's just that many people diet when they don't need to. Guys and girls both have this problem. Sometimes people will look great, and then one day they will look in the mirror and think they need to diet.

The solution people usually think of is eating healthier foods, eating less often and even taking dieting pills. If people absolutely think they need to diet, exercise is a better choice. It's better because exercising will keep bodies in shape without depriving them of nutrients.

Is the extra gallon of makeup really going to make a difference? Will dieting really make a difference? Maybe what people are looking for goes a lot deeper.

Beyond the birds and the bees:

What's wrong with talking about sex?



By Miriam Baughman, Desert Pines HS

All by itself, just the word "sex" is enough to spark up a whole slew of emotions ranging from curiosity to fear. Throughout life, parents guide their children through most of the new experiences they encounter. But when it comes to that infamous three-letter word, parents tend to avoid facing the facts.

The facts are that 10 percent of teenage women who have had sexual intercourse become pregnant. One in four sexually active teens becomes infected with a sexually transmitted disease every year. This adds up to approximately one million teenage girls pregnant and three million teenagers infected with an STD every year! There is a whole busload of statistics showing that the odds are against the many young adults who are having unprotected sex. Yet, even with the knowledge that their kids are at risk, parents still are not stepping up.

Seven out of 10 Desert Pines High School students say that their parents never had "The Talk" with them. Four out of the 10 parents who had not had the talk with their children say that the subject was too awkward or touchy to discuss.

Whether it feels weird or not, it is important for parents to know that they can play a major role in educating their kids about sex. With seemingly very few parents being open with their kids, you have to ask where kids get their information. What teens see in movies or on the Internet is rarely true and very unrealistic. While some people may take those things as the absolute truth, it often reflects what people want to see instead of what is true.

Most teenagers are very easily influenced. At the same time, they are curious about new feelings or emotions that they have.

When teens were asked, "To whom do you go for advice about sex?" the answer that stuck out above the rest was "To friends." Our friends do care about us and give us what they think is expert advice, but the truth is that they often know nothing more than we do.

Another source of information is school. Throughout school, students are offered an average of three sex education classes. Although it sounds good, all you honestly learn are facts about the reproductive organs. Our parents were always given the opportunity to say that they did not want us to take the class. One would assume that those parents who said no were either already talking to their kids about sex or just didn't want their kids learning about sex at all.

Their concern was not necessary; in sex ed class we watched a few videos, maybe even got to see a live birth, but most of it had nothing to do with what teenagers actually have to deal with when they begin thinking about or having sex.

The fact of the matter is that more teenagers are having sex, starting at a younger age, and are at a higher risk every day; someone needs to take a stand. Parents, teachers, coaches and any person who can directly affect the life of a teenager need to get involved, speak up and start talking about sex.

Oral sex fad endangers misinformed teens

By Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS



"Oral sex is not real sex." This is a common statement from teens. Recent studies have shown that teenagers are considering oral sex to be safer than intercourse because you can't get pregnant and as there is no penetration, it's believed to be the "safe" alternative to intercourse.

Times are changing and there are so many approaches to the issue of teenagers and sex. Some parents would just rather not talk about it and expect the schools to teach their kids everything they need to know about the birds and the bees.

But the truth is, federal funding has focused the last decade on HIV/AIDS and pregnancy prevention only. Also, many schools are teaching the route of abstinence only. Teenagers are having all these urges to do things, but all they are taught is about intercourse and birth control. You never hear about parents sitting down with their teen, asking if they are having oral or anal sex.

Sophia* is 17 years old and explains that in her relationship with her parents, it is very hard to talk about sex.

"I am Mexican," she says. "With a Hispanic family, it is very difficult to discuss anything of a sexual nature because I can't even mention the word sex at my house."

Instead, Sophia has learned things about oral sex from her friends.

Television shows and movies mostly show a romanticized suggestion of sexual intercourse between an on-screen couple. Other types of sex, like oral sex, are rarely suggested in movies, and maybe that taboo attitude is why teens feel so uncomfortable talking about it. If everyone is scared to bring up the topic, how else will teenagers learn what's right and wrong?

Risky behavior

The fact is that unprotected oral sex is just as dangerous as unprotected sexual intercourse. From exposure to blood and body fluids, there is a risk of HIV transmission as well as infection with other diseases. You can also get infected from oral sores or bleeding gums that come in contact with genital cuts or sores.

Parents aren't sure how to bring up the issue to their kids. Teenagers don't feel they have an "open" relationship with their parents where they feel comfortable asking questions about the dangers and risks of taking part in any kind of sexual activity.

Brenda*, 17, feels that parents need to talk about the dangers of all types of sexual activities to their kids, even if they don't think they are having sex. The information will help them understand more once they do start to have sex.

"If I knew earlier, it would have probably changed some of the situations I have put myself in," she says.

Brenda does not have an open relationship with her mother. If she has any questions concerning sex, she asks the mother of one of her closest friends because she is very open with everything from just plain sexual intercourse to more in-depth questions about oral sex and pregnancy.

Many misconceptions surround oral sex, and since there is no penetration, teenagers might feel that there is no risk of contracting an STD. That is far from the truth. Some teenagers seem to think that there are no

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risks; therefore, they don't need to use protection or to discuss past sexual partners with each other.

"There is no going back once you catch a disease," explains Brenda. That is why she feels it is always necessary to use protection with all kinds of sexual actions.

Like any other sexual activity, oral sex has the same risks of catching sexually transmitted diseases that sexual intercourse has. Through any form of sexual activity, whether it is oral, anal or vaginal contact, there are risks. There is no true safe sex, but if you choose to be sexually active, there are methods of protection that can be used during any sexual activity to reduce the risks of spreading diseases. Such methods include non-lubricated condoms and dental dams.

Sexual activity of all kinds can cause emotional damage to young people as well. Dr. Lynn Ponton, M.D., is a psychotherapist specializing in adolescence and a professor at the University of California in San Francisco. In a recent interview with USA Today, Ponton discussed the low self-regard teenagers may suffer as a result of having oral sex. Ponton says that many teenage girls are looking for attention and a way to boost their self-esteem. By performing oral sex, she says, the girls will get more attention, but this way of thinking is totally going the wrong way.



Dr. Ponton thinks sexual activity can cause emotional damage to young people.

"At first they will get attention from the boys at school, but after everything is all done, and the boys get what they want, their reputation will go down the drain," says Sara*, an 18-year-old girl who admits to having oral sex at a young age.

She explains that some boys will say anything for you to feel comfortable at first and do what they want you to do. Then when you go back to school the next day, and they have told everyone what you did, your reputation is tarnished.

Trace*, 18, and Tito*, 17, are both sexually active boys in high school. Both agreed that after teenage boys engage in sexual activities, they tell their friends because it "makes them look good."

The New York Times and Washington Post have both reported on an "oral sex fad" among middle school kids.

Montez* is a high school senior who feels that it's wrong that middle school kids are engaging in risky behavior.

"They should be concentrating on other important things at that age," she says. "Sex is going to be there for the rest of their lives. They can wait."

The Chicago Tribune recently reported on this trend, posted online at www.chicagotribune.com, in an interview with Susan Wilson, director of the Network for Family Life Education at Rutgers University School of Social Work.

"Rumors spread like crazy in middle school, and many times things are exaggerated to impress other kids," says Wilson. She explains that middle schoolers may not be doing it as much as they say, but they are talking about it a lot more than ever before.

Blame it on the President

Some people are blaming this new sex fad on the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal. President Clinton publicly insisted, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman," when he had in fact received oral sex.

Similarly, in a Planned Parenthood Federation study in 2001, of the teens who considered themselves to be

"virgins," 10 percent admitted to having had oral sex.

Having oral sex at a young age can create overwhelming pressure on teens.

"Sometimes I'm not in the mood to do it, but I don't want to disappoint my boyfriend," says Sara. Even though she stresses the fact that "no means no," sometimes she has performed oral sex without the desire.

Eva* is a 16-year-old girl who thinks that it is ridiculous that kids in middle school are starting to have oral sex. She explains that they aren't old enough or ready for that kind of intimacy.

Eva was 15 when she first had a sexual experience with a guy, but ended her risqué behavior when it led to something she regrets.

"I was very young when I first gave oral to a guy, and the next day everyone was calling me a whore. I felt like crap. It was totally degrading," she says. "I wouldn't want anyone to feel like I did because I felt like I was worth nothing."

Honest answers

If a teen believes he or she is ready to have any kind of sex, Ponton suggests honestly answering some straightforward questions first:

Are you doing this for yourself?

Do you feel rushed by your partner?

Is your body ready?

Do you trust your partner?

Can you talk freely with him/her?

Have you and your partner practiced other sexual experiences prior to having intercourse?

Have you planned for protection from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases?

Are you able to engage in sexual activity without getting drunk or high first?

Are you knowledgeable about sex?

Do you know what oral, anal, manual and vaginal intercourse are?

Have you thought about the impact of this event on your life, considering whether it matches your values?

Those few questions might help teenagers tell if they are thinking about having sex at the wrong time in their lives and for the wrong reasons.

Oral sex is not the safe way around anything; so don't listen to what your friends are telling you. It has the same dangers as all other sexual activities, such as risks of getting HIV/AIDS, hepatitis or herpes and other STDs.

Surprisingly, out of 20 teenage girls and boys interviewed, only one girl said she had been checked for STDs. But all agreed that they don't mess around with "dirty" boys and girls. Yet, how do they know who is safe or not if they haven't even been checked themselves?

When asked how they knew about their partner's past they replied, through friends or just simply asking their partners themselves. One drawback the teens admit is not knowing whether or not their partner is lying.

"I have to trust the girl and know about her past relationships before I start doing any kind of sexual activities," says Mark*, 18.

Talk to your parents, or a trusted adult if you have any questions concerning sexually transmitted diseases or sexual activities. Don't be scared to ask questions to the right people. Confiding in your friends might feel a little more comfortable, but don't take the chance of asking someone who might not know the facts.

**Name withheld*

“
If I knew earlier [about sex], it would have probably changed some of the situations I have put myself in.
”

— **Brenda, age 17**

YES! YOU CAN STOP SEX

Love story: The tale of a teenage couple in the local sex industry

By Joshua Chase,
Community
College HS



Nevada is a state that is known worldwide for a couple of things. Gambling, of course, is the state's largest industry. But, in some circles, gambling is not the state's most important source of income. For some, Nevada's sex industry is a way of life.

Las Vegas, of all the towns in Nevada, is possibly the most welcoming to the sex industry. Just drive down any major street in the city and you are bound to see billboards of scantily-clad women, or men, posed for the advertisement of the numerous sex clubs in the valley.

What kind of effect does this environment have on the valley's high school students? How does living in a sexually oriented society influence teenagers in the district?

Two local teens not only worked in the Las Vegas sex industry but share a romance that spawned out of it. Hector, a now 20-year-old former Rancho High School student, began working at a local strip club within a year of his high school graduation.

In a sea of teenage confusion, Hector moved to Absarokee, Montana only six months after he graduated from Rancho. His brother was a miner, and Hector decided to move in with him to find out about life outside of Vegas. Hector had also begun a downward spiral into drugs and alcohol. He saw leaving Las Vegas as a way to leave his problems.

But things weren't going as planned for Hector. He found it hard to get a good job in Montana, and was finding it even harder to adjust to the small town life.

At the time, a friend of Hector's back home was working at a local strip club. The friend told Hector that if he came back to Las Vegas, he would be guaranteed a job at the strip club. As it became apparent that life in Montana wasn't going to work out, Hector decided to take his friend up on the offer.

A few months after Hector obtained employment as a bouncer at the strip club, he met Jaimee, a petite, strawberry-blond, 19-year-old, who had just begun working as a waitress at the club. In addition to normal waitress duties, it was also Jaimee's job to encourage customers to pay extra for

a private session with one of the dancers.

"We weren't really supposed to be talking to each other. But there was chemistry. I'd walk by and we'd stare at each other," Hector says. "Then she gave me her number and I called her a few days later. We kept it a secret for about a month and then our boss found out."

As it was explained to Hector and Jaimee, the club had a policy distinguishing business from pleasure. Employees weren't allowed to date because of how the business profited from the females' selling of their sexuality. If an employee was preoccupied with a boyfriend/coworker, she would not be as effective at selling herself.

Both Hector and Jaimee admit their motives for obtaining employment in the Las Vegas sex industry were largely influenced by money.

"It was quick money," says Jaimee. "Cash every night. You didn't have to wait for a paycheck."

Hector, though, adds, "That was the lifestyle I was living before Montana, and working at the strip club gave me easy access to all the things I enjoyed. There were lots of drugs and alcohol."

While drugs were Hector's reason for working at the strip club, they were also part of the reason that Jaimee decided to leave.

"I wasn't cutthroat enough," she says. "I wasn't comfortable with selling sex, and there were way too many drugs around. I was spending all of my money on drugs."

Working in the sex industry definitely shaped the couple's views on relationships. Hector sees the experience as a test on his relationship's strength.

"You get tempted," Hector says. "I had the opportunity to cheat and I considered it."

"Women are seen more as objects in the industry. Even the women see themselves as objects ... a way to make money," he says. "It's easy to disregard your loved one because when you talk to the guys, it's like, they encourage it."

The couple is now living together and have both left the strip club. They are now working separate jobs, neither of them in the sex industry.

On working in the sex industry, Jaimee says, "It had no good impact, I'll say that."

From shampoo to taco salad, sexy ads sell

By Davina Coady
and Megan
McGinty,
Centennial HS



Sex sells — there's no doubt about it. The truth is that sex appeals to people of any age, gender, income or religious denomination. From movies to food, sex sells products. Advertisers know this and fill commercials, billboards and flyers with revealing "eye candy."

In today's society, beautiful half-naked women are used to sell merchandise. Gorgeous women appeal to both sexes — women want to be them and men want to be with them.

Las Vegas itself is the sin capital of the world and a breeding ground for all types of sexual advertising. Take the nightlife for example: "Crazy Girls," "Zumanity," "Jubilee," "Enter the Night," "Splash" and others are topless cabaret shows surrounded by glitz and glamour. Their "sophisticated" productions plaster pictures and flyers of beautiful, glamorous women in revealing clothes around the city.

Nightclubs are constantly advertising their sensual activities by portraying women as sex symbols. Two or more women are often shown on ads for clubs suggesting a sexual atmosphere. These promotional materials are meant to excite and "turn on" customers. Since most people yearn for freedom on vacation, they are drawn to these sexual hotspots.

Behind the beauty and sophistication of Las Vegas lie power-driven, sex-hungry show promoters. A problem that exists in selling sex lies in its literal meaning. Tourists come from all over the world to see the magnificent and famous Las Vegas Strip, but instead are bombarded with pornographic images.

"It's really annoying and inappropriate for people to be handing those images out when I am just trying to have fun with my friends on the Strip," says Centennial High School senior Bryce Knudson.

A city once dubbed as a family-oriented destination has been recently transformed. "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas" is the new slogan to bring in revenue. Family friendly? No. Insinuating one-night stands and sexual promiscuity? Yes.

Sexual advertising is most prevalent in the entertainment industry. On the promotional posters for many movies like 1999's "American Beauty," advertisers strategically place barely-clothed, "hot" people to draw in a larger audience. With a drama like "American Beauty," producers look to attract more than their "usual audience" of 25 and older. Putting a young, attractive and naked actress on the cover may draw a completely different type of audience — teenage boys.

"Most of the time, I'll only go see a movie if I know a hot chick is going to get naked," says Centennial junior Blake Schlotzhauer.

The same goes for teenage girls. How many were really interested in the souped-up racing cars in "The Fast and the Furious?" Not many. The fact that Paul Walker, Tyrese and Vin Diesel starred in the production was enough to get some girls to see the movie at least twice. The storyline does not matter, and the fact that Paul Walker is not a future Academy Award-winner and Tyrese should frankly

Continued on page 20

Love, scripted or real, is not all you need

By Ashton Wingo, Foothill HS

In our society we are constantly given the message that love is necessary to have a good life. Through the media, the public's standards of relationships are put into a considerably high category, giving individuals false hopes and increasing chances for heartbreak. The media never influence people to believe that it is normal to be single and not worrying about who their next toy will be.

In the movies women are swept off their feet by Prince Charming, and they ride off into the sunset hand in hand. Too many films have something to do with a relationship; the traditional ending is the man getting the woman. Films portray the dating scene to be exciting with good-looking people everywhere. Romance stories on every relevant occasion finish beautifully like a fairytale.

In reality, life doesn't consist of the multiple positive experiences that are represented in the movies. Writers of these shows and movies seem to skip the dirty dishes, dirty diapers and dreadful in-laws. Motion pictures that do contain certain factors of reality are comedies, having a lighthearted outlook on everything. Individuals get unrealistic expectations and when issues in

their lives don't magically end up working out, people are devastated.

When you turn on the radio, it is likely you will be listening to a song that deals with love, whether it's country and the singer is expressing that he wants his baby back, or a hip-hop song that discusses what happens when the lights go out, or an artist like Celine Dion who proclaims her heart will go on. People are pressured to believe they must find love, and then life is worth living.

Relationships definitely have positive aspects, but there are major negative sides as well. Nobody wants to experience that terrible ache in the pit of his or her stomach that causes a loss of appetite. If you are one of the many who constantly have to have a significant other in your life to feel stable, then welcome to heartbreak hotel. Addictions, debt and infidelity can cause a relationship to go wrong. For all those who are wishing for a fairytale ending, you must not forget the divorce rate is over 50 percent.

Money and sex basically sum up the reasons behind such high expectations. The paucity of reality in people's everyday lives due to the media is a letdown. People will be looking for the life that is lived in these make-believe fairytales played out in movies. False hopes sell diamonds and flowers. People believe that by purchasing products, they will find the person who will be their

soul mate, or are they trying to buy them? Consumers are told if you buy a red Corvette, the ladies will fall for you; if you drink a certain brand of beer, the women will flock to you; and every girl with high class must own a piece of Tiffany's jewelry. This is an example of products selling false hopes and happiness.

A person like Bill Gates, who is one of the richest men in the world, could never be satisfied. No matter how wealthy you are or how many ladies are after you, it won't make you happy because your life is not fulfilled. Success in life is not defined by what car you drive, how much money you make, or if you are married. You have reached success if you are happy.

You shouldn't count on somebody else making you feel good about yourself. It's important to love yourself before trying to love somebody else. It isn't worth the long nights of feeling lonely and crying a river of tears. No matter what lesson was learned, you will find more relationships to be harmful than beneficial. Love and sex are both extremely overrated.

Be realistic: If you drive a hot rod, it doesn't guarantee you love or ensure happiness. The public shouldn't let the media brainwash them into feeling like any less of a person if they aren't in a relationship. Reality is not portrayed in the movies and cookie-cutter television shows. There are so many more elements people need in life besides love.

Sexy ads

Continued from page 19

just stick to singing does not bother teenyboppers either.

The entertainment industry, especially the music business, has exploded in popularity over the last 10 years. However, it seems as the quantity has increased, the quality has decreased. Name one artist who sings and records an album without assistance from a machine, or does not add some spice to an otherwise dull performance with elaborate, sexy dance sequences. There are very few.

Madonna, Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera are all known as strong, sexy and somewhat talented singers. Right? Well,

they have also recently become notorious for another reason: They all swapped spit at the MTV 2003 Music Video Awards last August. True, this stunt provided the audience with a good laugh and excited the males, but what about all the viewers who tuned in to see their favorite stars win some awards?

Sex in general, whether it's subtext or the act itself, is still going to bring in a profit. Part of Britney's image has been innocence and her decision to remain a virgin until marriage. Countless articles appeared in magazines across the world about whether or not Britney was having sex — understandably so, considering Britney is an idol to 12-year-olds worldwide, and she does not need to promote sexual intercourse. However, not mentioning it at all would have been better. Yet, keeping private about one's sex life does not sell; readers want the juice — no matter how non-juicy it is.

The same goes for Jessica Simpson. Modest Simpson's promise to God that she would remain a virgin until marriage grabbed audiences and put her in the sexual spotlight. Surprisingly enough, her modesty only extended as far as her words. Provocative lyrics and sexy clothing continue to dominate on her albums. Yet, all things considered, Jessica and Britney together proved that you do not have to have sex to sell sex.

"I think it's a total joke that Britney Spears and Jessica Simpson tramp around half-naked, but still claim sexual innocence," says Centennial senior Megan Munro.

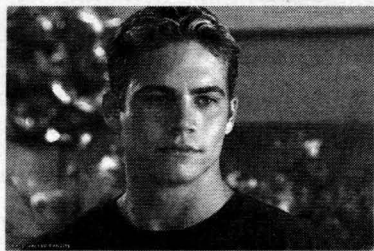
Advertisers have taken selling sex to an even higher level. Since when did McDonald's and sex share a common link? Ever since the newest McDonald's ad for taco salad aired on TV, apparently. The commercial includes a woman at an office enjoying a taco salad, feasting her eyes on sexy co-workers. Correlation? No.

"When I first saw the McDonald's taco salad commercial, I thought it was an advertisement for men's cologne," says Centennial freshman Maureen McGinty.

The Herbal Essence shampoo and conditioner commercials are another perfect example of an absurd connection between sex and selling products. Shampoo isn't likely to give anyone an orgasmic feeling. Yet, on their commercials, Herbal Essence continues to portray its product as a sexual satisfier.

"Herbal Essence uses false advertisement. I use their shampoo and conditioner every day, and I never get that feeling," says Centennial senior Brynn Mohr.

From store-bought products to the entertainment industry, sex is the key. Find the right sexual angle on a product, and consider it sold.



Paul Walker starred in "The Fast and the Furious." Girls flocked to see his sex appeal, not the fast cars.

teens talk about sex

Casual sex complicates teen friendships

By Lori Valiente, Las Vegas HS

Friends-with-benefits is a good way of having fun with no attachments," explains Stephanie*, a senior at Las Vegas High School.

"Friends-with-benefits" is described as platonic friends who engage in sex with no strings attached. That means there are no boyfriend/girlfriend titles; therefore, both partners have the chance to have multiple partners at the same time.

"I would never have that kind of relationship," says Jason DeGracia, a senior at Las Vegas High School.

He feels that it is disrespectful to a friendship and it passes outside of the friendship boundaries. Many teen boys and girls have the same idea as DeGracia. It either crosses their religious beliefs or their personal beliefs that sex should be reserved for marriage.

"They are very dependant on sex and that is very sad," says DeGracia about those who participate in friends-with-benefits relationships.

He thinks that it is wrong to have sex with a friend just for pleasure. He says it should only be done in a serious relationship with someone you care about.

In some instances, teens go the friends-with-benefits route because they end a long-term relationship. They are trying to be friends with each other, but end up still engaging in the sexual activities that they were doing while they were together.

That is the relationship that Christy* was involved in for a couple of months. Christy is a 17-year-old girl who was dating the same guy for over a year. After they broke up, she found herself hanging out with him, just like before the breakup.

Christy explains that at the beginning, she thought her feelings weren't going to get involved, but they eventually did. Christy and her boyfriend had broken up after a year in a serious relationship. About four months after they separated, they started talking again and decided they wanted to try the friends-with-benefits relationship.

They didn't really discuss the terms they were going to have, but they had a mutual understanding not to let their feelings get involved and it was only to have fun.

"He started hanging out with this one girl in particular while we weren't talking," Christy says. "It bothered me once we started talking again because I couldn't say anything. I wasn't his girlfriend. That was the worst part and it made me feel horrible."

They agreed in the beginning just to be friends, but soon after they started hanging out more and more. He stopped talking to the other girls and mainly concentrated on her. After about two months of having this friends-with-benefits relationship, they took a turn for the better and he decided to give the relationship one more try.

"I'm so happy now," says Christy. "We've talked about what has happened and he realized what he had lost and wasn't about to let anyone else have what he missed so much."

Though the friends-with-benefits relationship worked out for her, she also explains that most of the time it doesn't end up like her situation did.

"I guess you can say I'm lucky because if he would have stopped talking to me for someone else, I would have been devastated," she says.

Jay* is also 17 years old and has had a friends-with-benefits relationship. But unlike Christy's ending to her situation, Jay got a different outcome.

"I used to have this guy in a class and had a huge

crush on him," she explains.

Then he started coming over to her house to watch movies and that is where everything started. They started having a friends-with-benefits relationship, but it only lasted about six months. She explains that she couldn't deal with all of the problems that started happening. She would see him with other girls and hated the fact that she couldn't say anything because they weren't together. She started having feelings for him and thought that they were mutual, but she later found out that she was wrong.

"I ended the relationship when I figured out that the only reason he would come over was to have sex, and that is definitely not what I wanted," she says.

"Booty calls" are sometimes another name for this kind of relationship. Jay says that she does not recommend this sort of relationship to anyone.

"It ruins friendships," she says. "It creates hope for something that might never be there."

Being in a friends-with-benefits relationship can also put you at a higher risk to get a sexually transmitted disease. Since it is just a friendship, there is a chance that your partner is seeing someone else at the same time. Having multiple partners puts you at a higher risk of contracting HIV/AIDS or sexually transmitted diseases. According to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease and the National Institutes of Health, nearly two-thirds of all STDs occur in people younger than 25 years of age.

This sort of relationship is getting so popular even MTV has done a "True Life" episode on it. The show follows six young people through their daily lives and shows how the relationships can blow up in their faces after feelings start getting involved.

"Someone will end up getting attached," says Stephanie. "People's biggest fear is getting hurt."

If you are considering getting involved in this kind of situation, make sure you really think about what you are about to get yourself into. Imagine if you have some feelings start to spark and your partner doesn't feel the same way, or picture it the other way around. You're just in it to have fun and your partner wants something more.

Even if you decided to have this kind of relationship, make sure you use protection because you never really know if the other person is messing around with other people at the same time he or she is messing around with you. You, or your partner, can have more than one friends-with-benefits relationship at the same time.

Remember, booty calls don't go on regular dates, spend holidays together, or talk about their days. Don't set yourself up to be let down in the end because when you're "just friends" with a little extra messing around, most of the time you'll end up ruining what you had in the beginning.

If you are engaging in sexual activities, be smart about it and use protection. If you have any questions concerning teenagers and sex, talk to your parents, a trusted adult or a health professional.

* Names withheld

"Booty calls" are sometimes another name for a friends-with-benefits relationship. Jay, 17, says that she does not recommend this sort of relationship to anyone.

Teens, parents take sides in teen pregnancy debate



By Stephanie Espinoza,
Green Valley HS

It's the topic no one wants to talk about. Parents often pretend it isn't happening, and teens often hide the subject and ignore the consequences. But teen pregnancy has become a major problem in Nevada.

Nevada is known for having one of the highest teen pregnancy rates compared to other states. With such knowledge, the next step should be to learn not only why this has become the case, but how teenagers feel about an issue that affects them the most.

In the July 2003 Final Report on Teen Pregnancy Prevention Focus Groups, UNLV's Nevada Institute For Children attempted to learn not only the "why" of this issue, but what real teens had to say on it.

The study took place with the following separate groups: never-pregnant girls, boys, pregnant and parenting girls, and parents of teenagers. Each group was asked the same questions regarding teen pregnancy, and the answers from each group were compared.

The objectives, as stated by the report, were "to improve understanding of the issues of teen pregnancy from the perspectives of teenagers and adult parents of teenagers; to find a better understanding of the challenges teenagers face around the issue of

teen pregnancy ... and ... to better understand parents' concerns about teen pregnancy."

Overall, findings proved teens have as many mixed feelings about the issue as can be expected in dealing with the complexities of teen pregnancy. Most discussion topics had more than one side.

According to the report, "Some participants stated their belief that girls talk more about sex than boys; others felt the opposite way."

There was also a mixed result regarding whom to talk to about a topic that is considered so contested and private in today's society. It was agreed that most teens should talk to their parents about sex, though many do not. Some found it easier to talk to peers rather than parents. And the subject of awareness invariably came up. Many participants believed parents aren't aware of how many kids are having sex, commenting that, "Parents who act irresponsibly cannot expect their kids to act responsibly."

This is only one of the many facets of controversy in the teen pregnancy issue. The question of "Who is to blame?" came up, though some determined that the more appropriate question should be "Who is responsible?" Such questions alone evoked emotions from deep thought to anger, showing just why teen pregnancy is such a difficult topic to discuss openly

with parents and among the public in general.

Other topics debated in the focus groups included abortion; how much time should schools devote to sex education in health class; and whether or not pregnant teens should receive maternity leave from school so they don't have to drop out of school. The debate hinged on whether the measure would avoid the damage a pregnancy can cause to a student's educational future, or if such an option would merely reward teens who have sex, encouraging the teens to have children.

Another disputed topic involved whether schools should offer birth control devices to help prevent teen pregnancy. Strong opinions came from both sides including the argument that distributing contraceptives or making them available in school health offices "is not going to increase the number of kids having sex," but "will increase the number of kids having safe sex," according to the answers given by teens in the groups.

From the other side, however, came the worry that having such items available at school would only be "treated as a joke by some kids, especially at schools with younger teens." Also, having the birth control devices so handy may imply to students that schools condone such behavior, inadvertently teaching students that premarital sex is an okay thing for teenagers to be doing.

Despite all the controversy over the issue of teen pregnancy, the study was able to show real results about what can be learned from talking to those directly involved in a problem that generates a substantial Nevada statistic.

The research ultimately showed that, while different sides of the problem do exist, getting the subject of teen pregnancy out in the open and having both teens and parents willing to talk about it is key.

As stated by the report, "Many kids are not interested in talking to their peers about sex on a deeper level and would greatly appreciate more parent involvement in the sex education process. This may mean that parents themselves need to learn more about communicating with their children in order to feel comfortable discussing a sensitive subject."

Overall, the study concluded that "the most important message to be taken from these focus groups is the idea that teenagers are interested in parental involvement in their lives."

For more information on this study, contact the Nevada Institute for Children's Director of Research Jennifer Personius at 895-1040.

Being a teen mom makes you grow up fast

By Tarencia Henderson,
Desert Pines HS

Teen moms and teen pregnancies are very common these days. More and more young women are becoming pregnant every day. The most common age for teen pregnancies begins at 14. A lot of young women think when they have a child that their lives are ruined. Think again! Your life is not over just because you are pregnant, but it is a life-changing experience.

Having a baby has forced me to mature faster than I would have otherwise, but I could not imagine my life without my precious little joy and I am so thankful for her. As a teen mom, it's hard for me to find a babysitter when I want to go out and have some fun. That is why you should wait until it is a perfect time for you. I feel that it was not the most perfect time for me to have a baby.

If you are going to have sexual intercourse, please protect yourself. It is very hard to raise a child alone as a teenager

because you do not have as much help as you would if the father was there, but it is possible if you have your priorities straight.

Every guy is not the man you think he is because there are guys out there who will leave you alone with a child, with no money, help or guidance. You have to learn to be independent so that you can take care of your child. Another thing to consider is that there are not a lot of mature men willing to take on the role of father to a child that is not their own, although some women are absolutely blessed to have met the guy that would be there for them.

I want my peers to realize that abstinence is a good idea until you are mentally, physically and financially ready to have a child. When you are, it is the best thing that could ever happen. When I was pregnant, I had first, second and third thoughts about my situation, but I am glad I had my child.

Still, you are only a teenager once, and I suggest you hold onto that freedom for as long as you can.

"There are guys out there who will leave you alone with a child, with no money, help or guidance."

teens talk about sex

Dígannos

El amor no conoce de raza ni colores

Por Krista Siotas,
Palo Verde HS

Las parejas interracialistas están siendo más aceptadas en la sociedad del siglo XXI.

Durante los cuatro años en la preparatoria vemos que las relaciones de pareja van y vienen, unas siendo más especiales que otras. Toda relación tiene problemas que solucionar, y uno de esos problemas puede ser la raza o el color de la piel.

Hay quienes piensan que una persona debería salir solo con alguien de su misma raza. Especialmente en el sur, muchas personas son mal vistas por tener una relación con otra persona de una raza diferente. Estas personas son especialistas en juzgar a la gente solo por apariencias físicas. Esto es definitivamente absurdo. Una pareja debe basar su relación en sus personalidades y no en su exterior. Como diría Michael Jackson, "No importa si eres negro o blanco." Pienso que éste es un excelente dicho que deberíamos tener en cuenta.

Hay mucha gente en el mundo de hoy que han podido ver más allá del color de piel o la cultura de los demás. Ellos o ellas han sido capaces de derribar ese obstáculo y lo

negativo que los rodea.

"No tengo ninguna objeción con las relaciones interracialistas," dice Katelynn Gray, estudiante de Palo Verde HS. "Una persona debe ser juzgada por su personalidad, más no por su color de piel. Si la persona que te gusta no es de tu misma raza, ¿qué importa?"

Muchos otros estudiantes que asisten a Palo Verde, están de acuerdo con ésta opinión.

"Creo que no tiene nada de malo tener una relación con una persona de otra raza," opina Mike Clarke de Palo Verde.

Desafortunadamente, muchos otros individuos en la sociedad todavía no están de acuerdo con estos comentarios.

"Hace un tiempo estaba saliendo con una chica cuyo padre es racista. Trató de pegarme con una bate de béisbol," dice Al Breland.

"Las personas han hecho comentarios acerca de cómo no son capaces de aceptar estas relaciones interracialistas, pero yo no le pongo atención a esos chismes," dice Linzi Feldman. "Esto es obvio porque 99 por ciento de mis parejas han sido de razas diferentes a la mía."

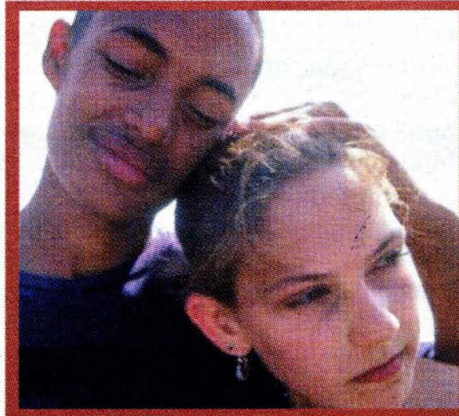
Esta es la mejor forma de no ponerle atención a esos comentarios - simplemente no los escuches. Quizás en el futuro, no habrá más comentarios que ignorar. El amor y las relaciones de

pareja serán basados sólo en las personalidades de cada quién y en la conexión entre ellos, no por su color de piel.

Muchos artistas ayudan a promover las relaciones interracialistas. Por ejemplo, si alguien conoce la vida amorosa de Jennifer López, quien es de descendencia latina, sabrá que sus compañeros han sido P. Diddy y Ben Affleck. Ninguno de ellos dos tienen descendencia latina. Dennis Rodman y Carmen Electra son otro ejemplo. Aunque puede ser que estas parejas ya no estén juntas, sus rompimientos no fueron causados ni por su raza ni por la imagen exterior de cada

uno de ellos.

Algunos de estos artistas son los ídolos de la juventud. Si nuestros ídolos son lo suficientemente maduros para tener una pareja de otra raza, entonces nos están mostrando que podemos hacer lo mismo si queremos. Las relaciones interracialistas deberían ser expuestas y aceptadas puesto que nadie debe ignorar una cultura o una raza diferente a la propia. Si lo analizas, el amor no conoce de raza ni colores.



Amor Lejos

Por Sarah Zapata, Sierra Vista, HS

Tengo un amado que vive lejos,
Aunque no lo veo, lo siento cerca.
Yo sé que nuestro amor es grande,
Y sé que es para siempre.
En las estrellas tus ojos veo,
Y puedo sentir tu presencia a mi lado.
Siempre estarás en mi corazón,
Y quiero compartirla a tu lado.
Te quiero decir mil veces,
Te amo.

¡Gana \$\$\$! Participa en el concurso de Poesía

REGLAS:

Debes ser un estudiante del noveno al doceavo grado.

• Tienes hasta el 9 de abril para enviarnos tu poema.

(Poemas recibidos después de esta fecha serán eliminados)

• El poema debe ser escrito en español y propio (Poemas no originales serán eliminados)

• No hay límite de líneas y el tema es libre

(Por favor no se limiten a escribir poemas de amor)

• Máximo de dos poemas por persona.

PREMIOS:

Primer puesto: \$125

Segundo puesto: \$60

Tercer puesto: \$40

Escribe tu nombre, edad, escuela, grado y tu correo electrónico junto con tu poema y envíalo a:

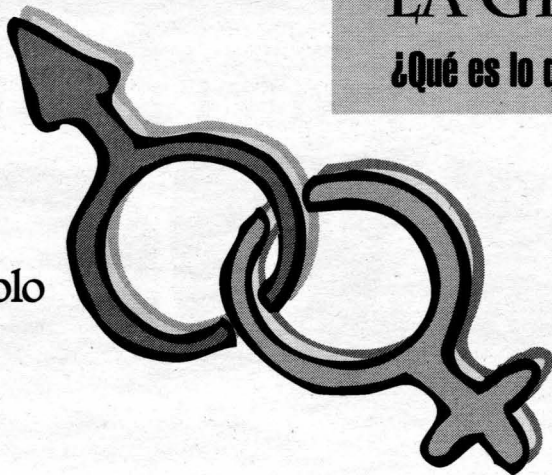
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LA GRAN GUERRA DE LOS SEXOS

¿Qué es lo que las mujeres y los hombres verdaderamente quieren?



Los hombres no solo buscan 'aquello'

Por Josh Sedillo,
Eldorado HS

Sexo. Sexo. Sexo. ¿Es eso lo que todos los hombres quieren? Algunas mujeres piensan que sí.

“¡Todos los hombres están interesados en el sexo!” dice DreAnn Story, estudiante de Eldorado HS.

¿Y qué con las mujeres? ¿Ellas qué quieren? Siempre andan diciéndole a los hombres que “quieren hablar” o preguntando, “¿Por qué dejamos de hablar?”

“Mi novio nunca quiere tener una conversación seria,” dice Krista Perry, estudiante de Eldorado HS. “El dice que siempre hablamos, pero lo único que quiere hacer, son cosas que no tienen nada que ver con ‘hablar.’”

¿Cómo los hombres llegaron a ser catalogados por vivir pensando en sexo? ¿Por qué tienen la fama de meterse con una chica solo para “sacarle el jugo”? Y, ¿las mujeres realmente saben lo que pasa por la mente de un hombre?

“Admito que la idea del sexo pasa por mi mente durante el día, pero eso no quiere decir que es lo único que me interesa,” aclara Jeff Anderson.

Muchos de los hombres jóvenes tratan de aparentar ante sus amigos que lo único que quieren es “aquello,” pero en verdad, ¿es solo eso lo que nosotros queremos? A pesar de todos los estereotipos, probablemente la respuesta es no. La mayoría de nosotros tratamos de conocer a mujeres para desarrollar una amistad a un nivel más personal. Entonces, ¿todas esas “niñerías y detalles” solo son para conseguir ‘otra’ cosa?

“Aunque un chico se vea súper lindo y piensas que conectas con él, pienso que probablemente él estará buscando lo que todos los hombres quieren,” dice Kari Lichtenwalner, estudiante de Eldorado.

Si nos preguntas si esto es cierto o no, estaremos en desacuerdo. Puede que tengamos una fachada de machos, pero en realidad, nosotros no solo vamos por “una sola cosa.”

Y ... cuando un hombre está en busca de una novia, ¿la atracción física importa?

“Puede sonar un poco cruel, pero si lo piensas, tiene que haber atracción física entre los dos porque si no, no hay nada,” comenta Chase Bryan, de Eldorado. “Si no te sientes atraído por esa persona, entonces no tienes nada, porque piensas en él o ella como en cualquier otra persona. La apariencia física no lo es todo, pero si no hay atracción, las oportunidades son mínimas.”

Muchos de los hombres creen saber lo que las mujeres quieren en una relación. A ellas les gusta lo simple, lo dulce, lo pequeño, que les den flores, así no sea una ocasión especial ... o una llamada sorpresa para decirles que tengan un lindo día.

¿Y los hombres qué? Esas cosas románticas, pasarían desapercibidas. ¿Qué es lo que hace feliz a un hombre?

Si una mujer quiere hacer feliz a un hombre, todo lo que tiene que hacer es tratar de hacerlo sentir bien con respecto a la relación. No tienen que ir a comprar regalos ni nada por el estilo. Solo tienen que decirle que su presencia las hace felices.

Quizás algunos hombres estén involucrados en la relación de novios solo para conseguir “aquello,” pero eso no tiene nada que ver con la felicidad. Y eso es lo que nosotros queremos, felicidad. Queremos estar con una mujer que nos haga felices.

Las mujeres pueden pensar que todos los hombres somos unos perros y que todo lo que queremos es sexo, pero eso no es verdad. El sexo es un factor fuerte, pero la vida no sólo se vive del sexo, y los hombres, hasta los más jóvenes, sabemos esto.

Las mujeres quieren pequeñas cosas, pero en cantidad

Por Chelsea Bailey, Eldorado HS

Chocolates. Flores. Cartas de amor. Todo el mundo sabe lo que hace feliz a una mujer. Pero, ¿son éstas las verdaderas cosas que las mujeres desean? ¿Comida, cuando lo que quieren es adelgazar, flores que les producen alergia o cartas de amor, que les irrita los ojos? Pregúntale a un hombre y de seguro te responderá, “Por supuesto.”

“Es el detalle el que cuenta,” dice una madre hablando acerca de los detalles de su esposo. “Aunque mi esposo solo me dé un beso en la mejilla antes de irse para su trabajo en la mañana, es mejor que nada.”

Una estudiante de Eldorado HS comenta, “Quiero a un hombre que sea dulce y que haga su mejor esfuerzo para hacerme feliz.”

¿Qué es lo que las mujeres quieren? ¿Romance o amistad? ¿Regalos finos o detalles? ¿Lo físico o la personalidad? La mayoría de los hombres, sin mencionar a las mujeres, no están seguros, y esta pregunta ha confundido la mente humana a lo largo de la historia.

“Si solo tuviera el poder de leer la mente de las mujeres,” dice Shain Manuele, estudiante de Eldorado HS, rascándose la cabeza. “Mel Gibson lo hizo perfectamente en su película ‘Lo que las mujeres quieren’ (‘What Women Want’). Para ellas, él era irresistible.”

Listo chicos, aquí está: lo que una mujer desea más en la vida es que sea querida, amada. Detalles tiernos, llamadas, cosas tan sencillas como cogerle la mano mientras se ven una película de terror - eso es lo que queremos.

El paso número uno es agradecernos por todo lo que hacemos por ustedes. Algunos comentarios que no valen ni un centavo para ti, para nosotras puede significar la vida entera. Conque estreches nuestra mano o nos sonrían, es suficiente. Recuerden que un detalle vale más que mil palabras.

“Me desespera hacer cosas por él, que luego ni agradece,” dice DreAnn Story. “Si le escribo una carta o le doy un detalle, sería bueno que al menos me diera las gracias. Y que también las guardara en vez de botarlas a la basura.”

Paso número dos. Tengan valores. Así estén de acuerdo o no, una relación no puede ser una relación si no hay valores. A nosotras nos gustan los hombres que hacen lo que esta correcto. La reputación del chico-malo ya dejó de ser buena. Sean honestos. No mientan. Acepten a las mujeres como son. Sean honrados. La humildad siempre llama la atención. ¿Quién quiere a un hombre que se llena la cabeza de mentiras y que ni siquiera le cabe por la puerta? Sean honestos con nosotras y con ustedes mismos.

Una joven mujer de negocios, recientemente graduada de la universidad dice, “La honestidad es muy importante. Si él no quiere hacer algo, entonces me lo tiene que decir a mí! Las mejores relaciones son las que se construyen a base de honestidad y de mente abierta.”

La atracción es un factor grande. No, chicos, no tienen que ser como los modelos de Abercrombie que despiertan deseos escondidos. La verdad es que la atracción física si importa, pero no a tantos extremos. Cada mujer tiene diferentes gustos. Delgado o gordito, oscuro o clarito, alto o bajito, hay una persona para cada quién.

“Si me gusta un hombre, no importa si está en su traje de baño, en chaqueta y corbata o en sus boxers,” dice Nicole Shafer.

Recuerden: apreciación, valores y atracción física. A una mujer puede que le gusten las cartas breves mientras que a otra le fascinen esas largas llamadas por teléfono. Algunas mujeres prefieren las conversaciones serias y otras simplemente estar sentadas en frente de una chimenea sin decir una sola palabra.

Aquí está el mejor consejo: la amistad va primero que cualquier otra cosa. Conoce primero la persona antes de involucrarte físicamente. Habrá suficiente tiempo para el romance. Sabrás que haz hecho todo bien, cuando tu novia sea también sea tu mejor amiga.

¡10 maneras de perder a una mujer!

Nota del editor: Si leyeron el artículo en la sección de noviembre, "10 maneras de perder a un hombre... (rápido)" por Eric Ruiz; el artículo a continuación es la otra cara de la historia. Ahora es el turno de las mujeres.

Por Jennifer Arthurholtz, Rancho HS

Este artículo es para todos ustedes, chicos ... para que comprendan un poquito más la mente de las chicas. Estas son las diez razones más usadas a la hora de mandarlos a comer espárragos:

10. Por ser desordenados. Chicos, tienen que verse limpios y preocuparse por ustedes y por su alrededor. Nosotras no queremos entrar a sus casas y encontrar toda la ropa tirada por el suelo o los platos sucios. Cuando vemos eso, creemos que los únicos seres que viven ahí son las cucarachas.

9. Por andar mirando a otras chicas. Entendemos que los hombres siempre serán hombres y que siempre se fijarán en todo lo bonito que pase por su lado. Todo lo que pedimos es que si estamos en la mitad de una conversación y una chica pasa por su lado, no empiecen a babear sobre ella y no dejen de escucharnos por el simple hecho de quedarte mirando sus "jeans."

8. Por no ayudar. Esta es una clásica. Todas las chicas saben lo que quiero decir. Cuando ellos dicen, "Ay, pero tú lo sabes hacer mucho mejor," o "No sé hacerlo. ¿Será que lo puedes hacer por mí y me enseñas después?" Sean hombres y ayuden, así sea para un trabajo para la escuela o para oficios en la casa.

7. Por no preocuparse/poner atención. Todo el mundo sabe que cada chica quiere ser una princesa, y cada chica merece ser tratada como una princesa. Nos encantan los piropos y escuchar que nos vemos lindas. No se olviden que todavía nos gustan las flores, las tarjetas y esas cositas dulces que nos demuestran que todavía les interesamos.

6. Por celosos. No estoy diciendo que no queremos que nos protejan, pero hay un límite para todo. Las chicas somos diferentes a los chicos en el sentido que nosotras podemos tener amigos hombres sin necesidad de algo más. Solo porque estemos hablando con un chico, no significa que sintamos algo por él. Confíen en nosotras al menos que tengan una razón muy fuerte para no hacerlo. Si eso pasa, entonces es tiempo de hablar.

5. Por ser engreídos. No deberían tomarse todo el día

para arreglarse. Nosotras tenemos la fama de tomarnos horas y horas en el baño, no ustedes. Ninguna chica quiere salir con un chico que se ve mejor que ella. Puede que los queramos, pero no se lo tomen a pecho y crean que son la última coca-cola del desierto. Solo porque una chica les hable, no significa que sientan algo por ustedes. Lo de afuera no lo es todo.

4. Por comportarse como unos tontos/groseros. No sé si lo han notado, pero estoy tratando de meterles en la cabeza que las chicas quieren a un hombre que las quiera y que cuide de ellas, a la misma vez que le demuestran que quieren estar únicamente con ella. Esto no significa que no puedan salir con sus amigos o compartir un rato con otras personas. Pero si quiere decir que cuando estén con sus amigos y sus novias a la misma vez, no las traten diferente. Necesitan seguir siendo unos caballeros mientras se divierten con sus amigos.

3. Por utilizarlos. Puede sonarles raro, pero les tienen que hacer saber a las chicas lo que quieren. No nos hagan pensar que están interesados en tener una relación seria, si lo único que quieren es pasarla rico. Y no salgan con una chica solo porque creen que pueden hacer algo más con ella. La única razón para tener una relación con alguien es para quererla tal y como es, no porque les vaya a dar "algo de más."

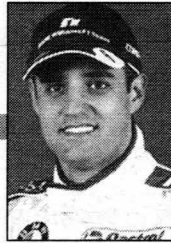
2. Por infieles. Esta es una de las más grandes y también de las más fáciles de entender. NO SEAN INFIELES. Así de fácil. Si piensan que vale la pena engañar a sus novias, entonces de paso terminen con ellas, porque si ellas se llegan a enterar, los mandarán a comer espárragos. ¿No es más fácil hacer una llamada, decirles que todo acabó e irse cada quién por su camino, antes de causar más drama? Entonces no lo hagan; terminen con ellas o simplemente, ¡no lo hagan! Y si algo llegara a pasar, díganlo. Preferiríamos escucharlo de sus bocas que de otras personas; además tienen más oportunidad de ser perdonados.

1. Por abusivos. Esta es la razón número uno para terminar con un chico. No solo me refiero al abuso físico. Me refiero al abuso mental (verbal) y al abuso sexual. Nunca nos peguen. Seguramente ustedes no se percatan de su propia fuerza, por eso sean siempre súper delicados con nosotras. No nos hagan sentir mal tampoco. A pesar de lo "niñas" que podemos ser a veces, no nos llamen estúpidas. Y con respecto al abuso sexual, cuando decimos no, ¡es no! Es nuestro cuerpo, ¡entonces respétenlo!

LEYENDAS DEL MES

Deportistas

Estos tres grandes atletas han sabido disfrutar de su gran talento en el deporte. Como latinos, ellos representan orgullosamente nuestra cultura alrededor del mundo y llevan sus triunfos a los corazones de quienes somos sus fans.



Juan Pablo M.

Montoya nació el 20 de septiembre de 1975 en Bogotá, Colombia. Su carrera empezó a los cinco años participando en Karts. Fue campeón nacional en la categoría niños y en la división junior. En 1998 participó en la formula 3000 donde fue campeón en su segundo intento, pasando a ser piloto de prueba del equipo Williams/BMW. A sus 23 años, se mudó a los Estados Unidos para integrarse al equipo "Target Chip Ganassi," compitiendo en la serie Cart. Aquí ganó el primer puesto como novato y estando ahí, ganó la carrera más importante: Indianápolis 500, (en su primer intento.)

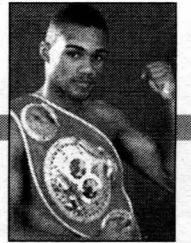
Durante el 2001, llega a la F1, esta vez como piloto de la BMW. Ha terminado de 3ro. en dos años consecutivos en las posiciones generales al final de la temporada y durante esta última, ganó la carrera más prestigiosa: "Mónaco, Grand Prix." Ahora asociado con la BMW Williams F1, puede llegar a ser el próximo campeón mundial del automovilismo. Hoy en día reside en Mónaco y está felizmente casado con Connie, una joven abogada Colombiana.



Ana G.

Guevara nació el 4 de marzo de 1977 en Sonora, México. Durante su juventud, decidió estudiar Ciencias de Comunicaciones en la universidad de Hermosillo pero no pudo continuar ya que fue en esa época cuando tomó la decisión de dedicarse de lleno al atletismo. Ella se define como una mujer de carácter fuerte, drástica en sus decisiones, decidida en lo que busca y quiere, que no anda a medias. Pero también reconoce que es tierna y sensible, aunque generalmente, puede más su carácter fuerte e independiente.

Gracias a su talento a lo largo de su carrera, Ana ha podido participar en campeonatos en diferentes ciudades del mundo. Algunos de los países que ha visitado son Australia, España, Canadá, Japón, Inglaterra, Alemania, Grecia, Venezuela, Portugal, Italia, Puerto Rico, México, Colombia y El Salvador. En la mayoría de estos campeonatos mundiales ha logrado ocupar los primeros puestos, convirtiéndose en una de las mujeres más rápidas del mundo. Hoy en día ocupa el 5to puesto mundial en los 400 metros.



Félix "Tito" T.

Trinidad nace el 10 de enero de 1973 en Puerto Rico y comienza su carrera como profesional en 1990 ganando las primeras cinco peleas por "knock-out." En 1993, hace su primer combate por el título mundial de los welter contra Maurice Blocker, derribándolo y convirtiéndose en el nuevo campeón. Durante los próximos cuatro años pelea contra grandes del boxeo como Luis Ramón "Yori Boy" Campas, Héctor "Macho" Camacho, entre otros.

En 1999, se presenta la pelea más esperada entre Trinidad y De la Hoya en nuestra ciudad, que después de tanto sufrimiento la victoria es para Tito por decisión mayoritaria, reteniendo su título de FIB y obteniendo el CMB. Un año después, el campeón puertorriqueño se enfrenta al mexicano Fernando Vargas donde, de nuevo, retiene sus títulos y consigue el AMB. Fue solo hasta el 2001, cuando Trinidad es derrotado por Bernard "El Verdugo" Hopkins. En la actualidad, Tito ha estado un poco retirado de los cuadriláteros, pero nos puede dar una sorpresa y reaparecer para seguir triunfando.

Sigue la lucha para acabar con los cigarrillos

Por Melanie Turmelle, Basic HS

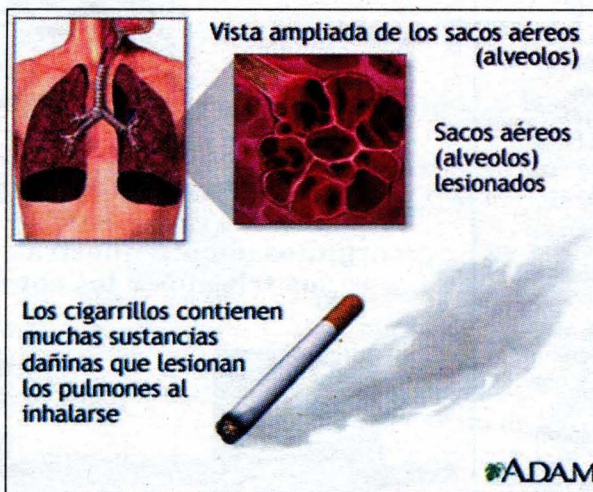
Hasta la fecha de hoy, una ley federal prohíbe los cigarrillos en todas las escuelas federales de la nación. Entonces, ¿por qué hay quienes siguen fumando?

Estudios recientes demuestran que alrededor de 3,000 estudiantes fuman cada día. Otros hechos indican que más y más estudiantes dejan de asistir a clases para irse a fumar, llevando esto a más multas y a más ausencias escolares.

¿Quiénes son las personas que tienen que pagar por esto? Desde luego que no lo harán las compañías que venden cigarrillos, ni las escuelas, ni mucho menos nuestros padres. Nosotros, la juventud de América, somos los que tenemos que pagar.

Algunos jóvenes utilizan los cigarrillos para disminuir el stress o el hambre, para perder peso o inclusive para salir del drama de la vida escolar y los problemas. Otros fuman por fumar, sin ninguna razón especial. Pero, ¿es ésa razón suficiente para empezar a fumar?

Numerosos estudios muestran lo que el cigarrillo realmente hace, incluyendo también



una estimación de lo severa que puede ser la "plaga café" en los pulmones de una persona. Todo debido al susodicho tabaco.

La página en Internet de la Organización Mundial de la Salud www.who.int afirma, "Nosotros podemos decir que en los próximos 20 años, el nivel de mortalidad por el cigarrillo será el triple de lo que es ahora, matando números que no se compararán con ninguna

otra epidemia mundial en la historia humana." Sin embargo, ese número no incluye el hecho que el cigarrillo mata alrededor de 53,000 fumadores de segundo grado, es decir, los que inhalan todo ese humo. Esto ocurre cada año.

"No entiendo por qué fumar se convierte en un gran asunto para todos los chicos de nuestras escuelas," dice Jessica Smith, estudiante de Basic HS. "Muchos de nosotros lo seguimos haciendo ... y nadie podrá detenernos."

Una encuesta hecha a 60 estudiantes de Basic HS, durante una semana en el mes de septiembre, reveló que más de 40 estudiantes fuman o al menos han probado un cigarrillo una vez o más en fiestas.

"No le encuentro sentido a fumar. No hace absolutamente nada por ti," dice Miguel Cuevas, estudiante de Basic HS.

Si estás interesado en dejar de fumar, puedes hablar con un proveedor del cuidado de la salud, o con la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer (American Cancer Society) al 1-800-227-2345 o con la Asociación Americana del Pulmón (American Lung Association) al 1-800-LUNG-USA para más información al respecto.

¿Alguna vez haz sentido que a tu novio no le importa lo que tienes que decir? O chicos, ¿se han preguntado qué diablos es lo que tu novia está tratando de decir?

¿Por qué los hombres no se comprometen y por qué las mujeres tienden a analizar cada palabra que sale de la boca de sus novios? Las mujeres hablan en clave y los hombres no escuchan. Casi todos lo sabemos. La pregunta aquí es, ¿por qué?

Para empezar a analizar las extrañas cosas del sexo opuesto, es más fácil entender lo que cada uno quiere. Las mujeres tienden a valorar el amor, la comunicación y las relaciones más que los hombres; esto significa que la mujer da más de su tiempo a una relación de pareja y se preocupa por lo que pueda afectar a esa relación.

Chicos, ¿se han preguntado por qué una chica se enoja repentinamente cuando piensa que tú estás actuando diferente? Piensas que se está enloqueciendo por nada, ¿no es así?

La situación puede darse porque ella cree que no le estás hablando lo suficiente o que te estás aislando. Cuando las chicas piensan esto, asumen lo peor: "El me odia. Se acabó. ¿Por qué ya no le gusto?"

"No jueguen con nuestras

emociones — lo analizaremos más de la cuenta," dice Megan Stock, estudiante de Centennial HS.

La respuesta del por qué del silencio del chico puede ser que está luchando con un problema y prefiere apartarse del mundo y entrar a "su cueva," donde nadie es permitido. Déjelo estar ahí, él pronto estará bien. Si no es por un problema, es porque sencillamente no quiere hablar. Estudios han mostrado que las mujeres por lo general son más habladoras, mientras que los hombres prefieren tener un solo tema para discutir. No es que odien a sus novias, lo que pasa es que a veces no tienen el ánimo para hablar.

"Mi novia siempre habla en clave," dice Jordan Lietz, estudiante de Centennial. "Si algo malo ocurre y le pregunto qué pasa, ella dice 'Nada.' ¿Por qué no me dice las cosas en primer lugar?"

¿Reconocen esto? Muchos chicos dirían que sí. Prácticamente necesitan un traductor para poder entender lo que las chicas tratan de decir. Claro está que los hombres no pueden reaccionar

como las mujeres. Ellos son directos y van a lo que van. Las chicas generalmente hablan en clave porque tratan de obtener ayuda sin hacerlo muy evidente. Algunos chicos se acostumbran a esto. Sí te parece muy difícil entenderlo, trata de leer el diccionario de frases venusianas y marcianas en el libro "Los Hombres son de Marte, Las Mujeres de Venus (Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus)" escrito por John Gray.

"¿Por qué los hombres nunca se quieren comprometer?" pregunta Katie Jaquez, estudiante de Centennial.

"Alguien tan atractivo como yo — tantas chicas allá afuera- ¿se supone que solo puedo escoger una?" dice Will Scarlett.

Ahí tienen la respuesta, chicas. Los chicos tienen muchas hormonas en este punto de sus vidas para quedarse con una sola chica. Denles cinco o seis años más y se habrán calmado lo suficiente para considerar una relación seria.

Bryce Knudson quiso saber por qué "una chica que se supone que

te quiere, deja de hacerlo si la mimas mucho."

La razón es muy simple. A todo el mundo le gusta que lo mimen, pero hoy en día las chicas ya no son el sexo débil.

En el pasado, a los hombres se les permitía traerle flores a una mujer, abrirlle las puertas, pagar la cuenta en un restaurante, etc. El tiempo va cambiando. Ahora son las chicas las que pagan la cuenta. Los chicos ya no llevan flores. Ellas creen que ellos lo hacen simplemente porque piensan que eso es lo que deben hacer. Les da miedo que las consientan porque al final de tanta niñería, ellos se aburrirán y las dejarán.

Esto encaja todo: el miedo de las mujeres hacia el rechazo, el miedo de que nadie las quiera. Las chicas hablan en clave para que así, los chicos escuchen lo que quieren escuchar. Ellas no permitirán que los chicos las mimen por el simple hecho que no quieren que ellos se sientan obligados a hacer algo que no quieren hacer.

¡Tranquilízate! No te inquietes por las cosas que hace el otro sexo. Las diferencias son un fenómeno tan enormemente psicológico, que aunque se ha investigado por cientos de años, este tema sigue y seguirá siendo un malentendido.

Even in a relationship, be true to yourself, your values

By Regina Froman, LV Academy

Heading into a relationship with your eyes wide open is a positive thing for you and your guy or girl. It prepares you for the best and the worst in any given situation including breakups.

How much you put into a relationship determines how much it will hurt when it ends emotionally, physically and socially. When you arrange your whole life and social calendar around your boyfriend or girlfriend, it will cause more pain in the end if the relationship comes to a close.

You also create a friend void (we all do it) before you break up because you have ignored your friends for so long. You meet each other after class, eat lunch together, talk on the phone until the wee hours of the morning, and hang out on the weekends. With all this, when do you find time to hang out and really talk to your friends? Your life becomes so intertwined with your boyfriend's or girlfriend's life that it's hard to separate yours from his or hers. The more important he or she becomes, the less important everyone else becomes.

So what happens if the two of you break up? You're going to be feeling pretty lonely.

The best way to avoid this big hole in your soul is not to concentrate so hard on the relationship itself. Know what might happen and prepare for it. That way you can have a boyfriend or girlfriend while maintaining that friendship with your friends. They'll be there when you need them.

Be careful with the physical aspect of a relationship, as being too physical can cause major pain to you as well. This is not to be taken as lightly as some teens seem to take it. Have you considered the results of having a physical relationship at this young of an age? Being sexually involved at this age leads to regret sooner or later, and many times sooner. Acting like an adult when you are still a teen can put additional pressure on both parties. And too many times the results are unwanted pregnancy or an STD. Do you really want to deal with that when you have so much ahead of you?

I know all of you have heard this "parental lecture" before, but have you truly taken the time to consider the consequences? Maybe looking at it from a different perspective will remove the blinders.

Picture that guy or girl you are so crazy about. You are incredibly happy together, but then one day something goes wrong, and you end up breaking up. Within the next few weeks, he or she is with someone new and guess what? Everything he or she did with you, he or she is now doing with that new person. How does that make you feel?

Or what about this scenario? The two of you had a romantic night and decided to "profess your love to each other." The next day, he or she is bragging about what you did to all his or her friends. I know you don't think this happens, but in all reality, IT DOES!

Don't compromise yourself to make someone else happy. Think about the consequences beforehand — I mean really think about it. Not only are there pregnancy and disease issues, but there are also emotional issues. Don't do something you are going to regret. Sex isn't supposed to be a regretful thing.

A relationship can be a roller-coaster ride, so try to enjoy the ups and learn from the downs.



AIDS can happen to you

By Melissa Butler, Sierra Vista HS

U2's Bono and singer Beyoncé Knowles joined many other celebrities to perform for Nelson Mandela's AIDS Benefit Concert in Cape Town, South Africa, Nov. 27-29. Hosted by Mandela, the concert raised awareness concerning the worldwide AIDS epidemic, which is killing millions of people each year.

Have you ever really thought about what would happen to you if you contracted AIDS? People with HIV have been disowned from their families, denied jobs and even been asked to leave their homes.

The problem with teens today is that we don't think before we act. Teens are infected mostly by having unprotected sex. All I am trying to say is, if you don't use protection, think about what will happen if you get infected. Think about all those who have been infected and have lost families, friends and even their lives.

People with AIDS encounter many problems. Not only do they have to deal with being sick and the fact that they are going to die earlier than they should, but they also have to deal with the ignorance of other people. Many people don't know the facts about AIDS. They think you can get AIDS just by breathing the same air, touching someone with AIDS, or that only homosexuals get AIDS, but that is not true.

Any one of us can get AIDS. People with AIDS are just like you and me. They have feelings too. We should not call them names or discriminate against them. We should try to befriend them and help them through their hard times.

How can we help people with the disease? We can be friends to them, we can listen to them when they need a shoulder to cry on, and we can be there for them when they are in the hospital. There is no need for us to put others down for something so terrible. We should try our best to be there for them in their times of need.

Right now there is no cure for AIDS. There are drugs that can slow down HIV, and slow the damage to the immune system, but there is no way to get HIV completely out of the body.

People need to be aware of AIDS. Be cautious. Think about the consequences. Don't be afraid to ask for protection. Ask your partner before having sex if he or she has been tested for AIDS. It could save your life.

For more information on AIDS, or if you need to get tested or have any questions, call your doctor or the AIDS hotline at 1-800-842-AIDS. Protect yourself and others.

AIDS Fact Sheet

Fact: AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. AIDS is caused by a virus called HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus).

Fact: Having casual, unprotected sex is not the only way you can contract AIDS. Sharing a needle (shooting drugs) with someone who is infected carries high risk. Also, a baby who is born to a mother infected with HIV or who drinks the breast milk of an infected mother can contract this disease. There have been no cases of HIV being transmitted through saliva, but it is not impossible for it to be transmitted through other fluids, like blood, in the saliva.

Fact: Some people don't even know they have HIV until they begin to get headaches, sore muscles, stomachaches and skin rashes that last more than two weeks. The virus increases in the body for a few weeks or even months before the immune system responds. During this time, a person won't test positive for HIV, but can infect other people without even knowing it.

Fact: In the United States alone, there are about 800,000 to 900,000 people who are HIV-positive. Over 300,000 people are living with AIDS. Each year, there are about 40,000 new infections.

Getting together when you're worlds apart

By Brittney Porter, Coronado HS

What are the real differences between men and women besides the obvious physical ones?

"Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus," claims the catchy title of a famous relationship self-help book. The Y chromosome makes up a man, and the X chromosome makes up the woman. Yet, what are the real differences between men and women besides the obvious physical ones? There are actually many more than we might think.

Society today has greatly shaped the traditional roles of men and women. What is considered "manly" or "feminine" is the key to one's appearance, although our culture seems to be slowly changing this, as femininity among men and masculinity among women are becoming more widely known and accepted throughout America.

But how do you feel?

There are many emotional differences between a man and woman, and it is all about the open and public expression of these feelings. The typical woman does not normally have a problem expressing her emotions in front of others. She can feel comfortable crying or confirming her thoughts in public or in front of her friends and family without having to think twice, although, there are always some exceptions.

A man, however, is considered "unmanly" and "femi-

nine" if he cries in public. It is thought of as a weakness, and therefore very few men actually do cry or express emotion in front of others, especially other men.

It's not what you said; it's how you said it

Communication is another key factor that separates men from women. Men think on a simpler level than women and are more concerned with key information rather than one's feelings or emotions. A woman will ramble on for hours about her troubles throughout her day and how she felt the whole time. A man, on the other hand, will tell about his day and keep it simple without going too deep into emotion or feelings. A woman will wake up at two o'clock in the morning to talk about a dilemma on her mind and her emotion behind it; a man would rather sleep.

A woman also pays more attention to how a person may offer an opinion or statement, while a man focuses more on the essence of the opinion. The expression and tone in one's voice is essential to a female, while a man is more prone to paying attention to just the basic facts of the conversation, not particularly caring about the tone or emotional expression being given off by the other individual.

These major differences greatly separate a man from a woman and make it seem as if they really are different species from different planets.

Love goes beyond skin color as stigma of interracial dating wanes

By Krista Siotas, Palo Verde HS

Interracial dating is becoming more accepted in the society of the 21st century.

Relationships come and go in high school with some more meaningful than others. Every relationship has problems that must be worked out, and just one of those problems may be of race.

There are certain people who feel that a person should only date another person from the same race. Especially in the South, people are looked down upon for dating someone of a different race. These people choose to judge others based upon appearance. This is absurd. Two people should base their relationship on personalities, and not on the exterior of the person. Like Michael Jackson says, "It doesn't matter if you're black or white." I feel this is an outstanding motto that everyone should abide by.

There are many people in today's world who choose to see past a person's skin color and ethnic heritage. They have been able to push through the negativity that surrounds them.

"I have no problem with interracial dating," says Palo Verde High School sophomore Katelynn Gray. "A person should be judged on their personality and not their race. If the

person you like happens to be a different race, who cares? Go for it."

There are many people who attend Palo Verde who feel the same way.

"I'm all for interracial dating," says Palo Verde freshman Al Breland.

"I think there is absolutely nothing wrong with interracial dating," agrees junior Mike Clarke from PVHS.

Unfortunately, some individuals

Love and relationships will simply be focused on the personalities and the connection between the couple, and not on their skin color.

in society still disagree with these remarks.

"I was dating one girl and her dad was racist, so he came after me and tried to beat me with a baseball bat," says Breland.

"People have made comments about how they do not agree with interracial dating, but I do not pay at-

tention to any of their gossip," says senior Linzi Feldman. "This is pretty obvious because 99 percent of my mates are from a race different from mine."

This is an excellent way that an individual may get past the comments that are made about an interracial couple — simply just do not listen to them. Perhaps in the near future, there will not be any comments for us to ignore. Love and relationships will simply be focused on the personalities and the connection between the couple, and not on their skin color.

There are many celebrities that help demonstrate interracial dating. For instance, if one follows the love life of Jennifer Lopez, who is of Latin descent, one may recall P. Diddy and Ben Affleck as her partners. Neither of these men is of Latin descent. Dennis Rodman and Carmen Electra are another example of interracial dating. Although these couples may not still be together, the breakups were certainly not caused by the outer image of each person.

Some of these celebrities are our youths' idols. If our idols are mature enough to date someone of a different race, then we are shown that we can do the same. Interracial dating should be exposed because one should not be sheltered from the heritage of a different race.

Loves me, loves me not: How to know when it's time to go

By Heather Trujillo,
Green Valley HS

As teenagers enter high school, they look forward to many things such as more freedom, a fresh start in school and dating. Meeting people of the opposite sex is really one of the only reasons some students come to school. They will work to get someone's attention, ask that person out and date for a while. While dating can and should be fun, for many teenagers, it leads to a potentially dangerous situation.

While dating can be a good experience, teens must be careful and know what they are getting themselves into. According to the latest Census Bureau reports, Nevada has the fourth-highest incidence of rape in the United States, and that number is climbing. Statistics show that one out of four girls and one out of six boys will be sexually assaulted before they are 18. In fact, 44 percent, nearly half, of all rape victims are under the age of 18! Of those teens who have been raped, eight out of 10 were assaulted by someone they knew.

With numbers like these, teens should be wondering why rape seems to be so common and what they can do to try to avoid it.

If you are a teen in a relationship, the best protection starts with knowing what is a healthy relationship and what is not.

"A healthy relationship doesn't isolate you and gives you freedom. There is no controlling element," says Regina Sweat of the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence. "The person you are seeing should be supportive and respect you. They should be trustworthy and loyal. They don't need to be pressuring you."

Lots of teens can say they are in these types of relationships, but what about those who can't?

Sometimes the lust or infatuation that teens feel can get in the way of them having a good relationship. These feelings of "love" can lead a person into extreme bouts of jealousy, which some people see as a sign of love. In all reality, however, this jealousy can indicate that your partner does not trust you and it can stem from his or her feelings of low self-esteem and unworthiness.

"If you feel your boyfriend or girlfriend is isolating you from your friends and family, or your time together is spent secretly, you are more than likely in an unhealthy relationship," says Sweat.

"When your schoolwork and self-

esteem are going down or you are afraid of the person you are seeing, it is time to get out," she explains. "If you are being abused in any way, whether it is verbally, physically or sexually, you need to seek help."

Signs that indicate you may be in an unhealthy relationship are constant feelings of unworthiness, school grades lowering, being humiliated by your partner in public, isolation from friends and family, extreme possessiveness by your boyfriend or girlfriend, or physical, verbal or emotional abuse.

Statistics show that many people have trouble getting out of these types of relationships. Of all the women between the ages of 15 and 19 who are murdered, 30 percent of them are killed by their husbands or boyfriends. Of all of the women murdered in 1995, 26 percent were killed by their partners. Forty percent of the teenagers between age 14 and 17 admit to knowing someone who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. One out of 10 high school students will be physically abused by his or her partner and even more will suffer psychological damage before they graduate because of their relationships.

Another way relationships can go bad is when people are forced into having sex by their partners. This is rape and is a crime. Many people who commit rapes use drugs like marijuana, alcohol, cocaine and other party drugs to render a person unconscious so they can take advantage of him or her. The best way to avoid these types of situations is not to put yourself in places where these drugs are accessible. If you are in a situation like this, however, it is best to make sure to keep your drink and all your belongings with you at all times. If you don't, you could end up in a very dangerous predicament.

People wonder, if so many teens are in troubled relationships, why wouldn't they try to get out of them?

"Many people stay in relationships because they fear their partner," Sweat says. "There is also pressure from their friends to go out with someone. Going out with a person can also make people feel more popular and feel like they fit in. The big thing, though, is they do not want to be alone."

If you feel you need to break up with your boyfriend or girlfriend, "it is best to do so in a non-confrontational way," Sweat says. "Make sure to have support from people around you."

If you feel you may be in an unhealthy dating situation, there are

many things you can do to get help. You should first find a parent, teacher or a trustworthy adult to talk to. You can also look into organizations such as the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence to get help. You can also call the Rape Crisis Center Hotline at (702) 366-1640.

The most important thing to do is to get out of this potentially dangerous situation because your life is way more important than a relationship that could be harmful to you.

What you need to know ...

■ What is date rape?

Date rape is a crime, the same as rape between strangers. Date rape, acquaintance rape and sexual assault are all terms used to describe rape, attempted rape or any unwanted, forced sexual contact:

- between any two people — male or female
- between friends, acquaintances or boyfriend/girlfriend
- between a gang or group and the person they overpower
- at any place — home, a party, on a date, in a car, gym or locker room
- at any time of day
- with or without physical force

■ What is force?

Force can be physical — hitting, slapping, kicking, holding someone down, using a gun, knife or any other weapon.

Force can be verbal — making threats, saying things like "something worse will happen if you don't..."

Force can be emotional — refusing to take "no" for an answer, telling someone "if you really loved me..." or "if you don't, I'll hurt myself."

Force can be taking advantage of someone who is drunk, high on drugs, passed out or asleep.

Force can be a group of people ganging up on someone.

■ Don't some people ask for it?

No one asks to be raped.

It doesn't matter what a person wears or how he or she acts.

It doesn't matter if a person has been sexually active in the past.

It doesn't matter if a person says "yes" and then changes his or her mind.

A person has the right to say "NO" at ANY time, with ANY person, for ANY reason.

■ What if no one says "No?"

If someone says "Wait," "Maybe" or "I'm not sure" — STOP! If you're being told "Wait," "Maybe" or "I'm not sure" — LISTEN!

If the other person tries to push you away or suddenly seems different — STOP!

If the other person is under the influence or passed out — STOP!

If the other person isn't sure... if you're not sure — DON'T DO ANYTHING ELSE! STOP!

Ask questions. Make sure you understand what the other person means!

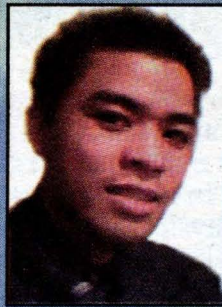
■ How do I know if "Yes" means "Yes?"

If you're not 100 percent sure, ask questions. Ask yourself and the person you're with if this is what you both really want. Make sure you listen to the other person. Make sure nobody feels pressured and both people have said "yes."

Reprinted with permission from the Rape Crisis Center, www.therapecrisiscenter.org.

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Students of the Month

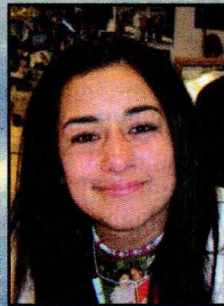


**Ryan Santos, senior
Durango HS**

"Ryan is one of the most genuinely concerned students out of everyone at Durango," says Durango High School Principal Elizabeth Fraser. "The wide variety of activities he is involved in shows just how dedicated he is to helping others and making Durango the best."

Ryan Santos is the student body treasurer, National Honor Society treasurer, and the Key Club treasurer. He is also a member of the Japanese Club, the Varsity Quiz Club, and the Science Bowl team. He even makes time to take part in STATUS (Students Taking Action Terminating Unlawful Substances).

He also stays involved in the community. Santos has volunteered for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Opportunity Village. He has also sung holiday songs for the elderly at a retirement home and raised money for pediatric trauma. He is one of the top 10 students in his senior class with a 4.6-weighted GPA, and is planning to major in Biology at UNR.



**Joeley Garcia, senior
Cimarron-Memorial HS**

"Joeley is a young lady I tremendously like and respect," says Cimarron-Memorial High School Principal Janice Rowland. "I have great admiration for her leadership skills and she has a sparkling personality."

Joeley Garcia is student body president, as well as a member of the National Honor Society, and helps plan many school activities. She has also participated in her school's swim and golf teams, and been a part of her youth group at church.

Garcia has managed to find the time in her busy schedule to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House and the Cheyenne Care Center. In addition, she tutors second graders. She maintains a 3.6-unweighted GPA and plans on attending Vanguard University, Azusa Pacific University or UNLV.

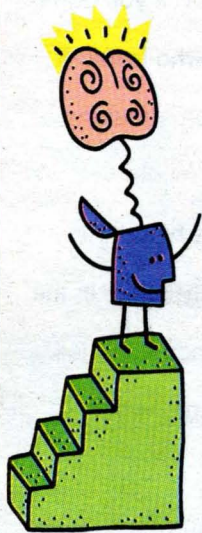


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Making the move from school to work

EVERYONE DREAMS OF THE DAY HE OR SHE WILL BE A SUCCESS. Whether it is in his or her own business or working for someone else, success is usually one of the top priorities for most people. But, how do you actually become successful? Sure, you're supposed to get good grades in school, probably go to college, and then get a job. If you think there should be a little bit more to it than that, you're right. To be successful, you have to be a certain kind of person and have certain personal characteristics. See if you have some of the following success-building traits:

Committed: Be committed to what you do and willing to give anything it takes to reach your goal.

Self-Motivated: Take initiative and make your own decisions. Work well without supervision.

Honest: Stand by your word and don't tell lies to anyone.

Helpful: Take time out to help others and don't expect anything in return.

Optimistic: Be able to point out opportunities, even in bad situations.

Creative: Find more than one way to tackle tasks and solve problems.

Organized: Prioritize your work. Work habits and appearance should be orderly.

Ethical: Play fair and maintain integrity.

You can pretty much count on the fact that employers will be looking out for these characteristics too. Become a success by becoming a successful person.

Question: Are there other characteristics it might take to become successful? Do you have what it takes?

© Job Jargon

This month's featured jobs:

Receptionist

Assistant is needed to answer phone lines, greet customers, contact agents, put files together, copy and fax. Applicants must be 17 years old and have a work permit. Workdays are Monday-Friday, totaling 20 hours per week. Job Number: 7877

Office Assistant

If you have a good phone voice and like filing and data input, this job may be just for you. Applicant must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., totaling 9 hours per week. Job Number: 7879

Food Service Attendants

Bus person, runner and cook helper are needed. Applicants must be 18 years old with a work permit, sheriff's card and health card. Résumé is optional. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 25 hours per week. Job Number: 7872

Crew Member

Applicants needed for all positions. Must be 16 years old, have a work permit and a health card. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 20 hours per week. Job Number: 7870

Sales Associate

Outgoing, positive customer service representatives wanted. Must be 16 years old and have a work permit. Workdays and hours are flexible, totaling 25 hours per week. Job Number: 7875

For more information about these jobs, or to view the entire list of available job opportunities, contact the work experience coordinator at your school, or call the CCSD Job Bank at 799-8461.

Nevada scores low in preventing smoking dangers to women

By Regina Froman, LV Academy

“When I got into high school, it was shocking to see how many people smoked,” says Lisa Smith, a freshman at Las Vegas Academy.

In fact, a recent study by the National Women’s Law Center showed that, in Nevada, 26 percent of girls in grades 9-12 smoke. This study was released two years after the Surgeon General issued a report calling smoking a leading killer of women.

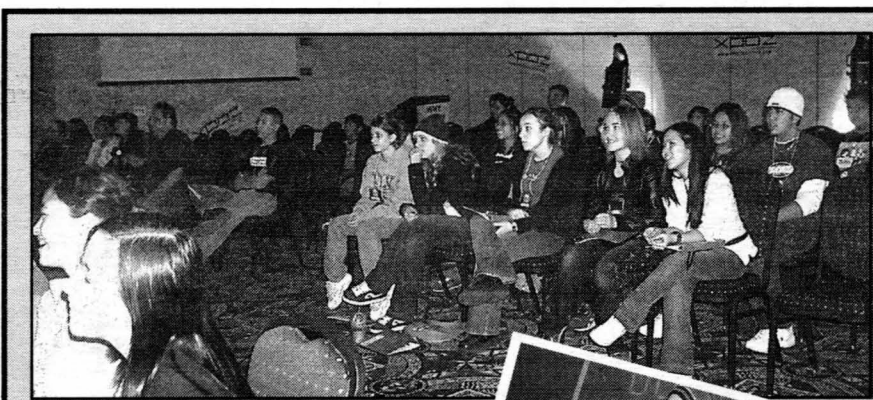
Nationally, about 20 percent of women smoke, compared with roughly 25 percent of men. However, women face unique risks: menstrual irregularities and earlier menopause, infertility, bone thinning osteoporosis, arthritis, cervical cancer and dangerous blood clots if they use birth control pills.

Nevada does not have strong policies on tobacco prevention and preventing tobacco sales to minors, which may be a huge factor in the percentage of women smoking in this state.

Health officials say that people often do not understand that smoking can cause heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Nevada women have the highest rates of obstructive pulmonary disease in the country. In the Silver State, 171 women per 100,000 suffer from obstructive pulmonary disease, according to the study.

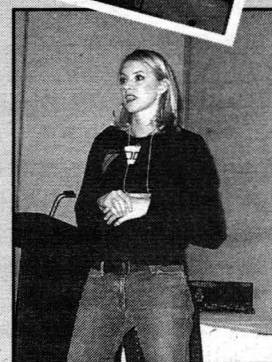
“I think smoking is a nasty habit and people seem to do it to act mature, but they’re not. They’re just aging faster,” says Priscilla Davis, an LVA freshman.

Because of the high risks for women who smoke, the American Heart Association, the Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coal-



Teens fight back against the tobacco industry

XPOZ Coalition workshops were attended by Clark County students interested in how to “bring down” the tobacco industry, and call attention to legislators who vote for and against tobacco industry regulation. Yes Duffy and Marin Poole were special guests who urged students to impact issues on a local level.



Photos by Mytae Carrasco.

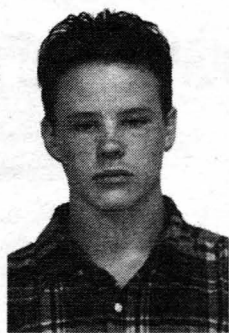
tion and other public health agencies pushed for tougher smoking laws during the legislative session this year. However, while cigarette taxes were increased, lawmakers did not pass legislation that would have banned smoking in res-

taurants, grocery stores and public buildings, despite the fact that voters approved such an action in the last election.

Once again, Nevada is dead last — this time in making an effort to help females quit smoking.

If you don’t know yet, get the facts on going veggie

By Beau Forbes, Durango HS



Vegetarians are the people who do not choose to include meat, fish or poultry in their diets.

Almost everyone has heard about this lifestyle, but beyond the above statement they really don’t know much about it. They don’t know the nutrition factors and have probably never heard about a similar diet called vegan in which someone renounces not only meat, but all animal products, including eggs, dairy and even honey.

I know before researching this subject that I had no other knowledge about it, but was interested by the information I found. The first question I had

in mind was if a vegetarian diet was healthy for an average teenager like me.

It turns out that a veggie diet is just as healthy as the normal meat-eater’s. The trick is to just make sure to eat a balanced variety of fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts and beans. With enough of these in someone’s diet, there will be no need to worry about protein and iron loss in the body.

Vegans, on the other hand, have a harder job cut out for them.

Cinthia Inga, a Durango High School senior, has been a vegan for nearly five years now and says that she’ll never go back to eating meat, eggs, dairy products, honey or anything made in animal fats.

“I once saw a documentary about the slaughtering of cows and every time I tried to eat meat, those images just came back to me,” says Inga.

When asked about the other items she doesn’t eat, she says that she simply doesn’t believe that animals should be exploited.

One problem vegans and vegetarians face when taking this moral stand is people who say that just because they’ve given up meat, they won’t be making a difference.

That is absolutely not true. The ordinary person will buy about \$40 to \$50 worth of meat, ham and poultry every month. Take \$50 times 12 months, and that’s \$600 per person! That means every time someone stops buying meat products, the meat industry loses about \$600 in income a year.

There are, however, more disadvantages to this diet than just missing out on everyday foods. Inga says that during her transition to becoming a vegan she faced weight loss and pressure to go back to eating like

the average population by both friends and family. But, her determination, personal morals and strong will saw her through that, and aside from taking certain vitamins and minerals she misses out on in her diet, Inga leads a normal life.

After my researching of this controversial topic, I know that my views have changed and I’m proud to say that I’ve been on a strict vegetarian diet myself for over a month now. I feel fine and plan on continuing down the veggie path.

Even so, the question still remains: Which dietary plan is better, to eat meat or not to eat meat? That’s everyone’s own personal decision. Remember, you’re not bound to anything if you want to try it out for a change. Just make sure such a change would be healthy for you by checking with your doctor, and then give it a chance.

Steroid abuse: Quick fix to muscles can wreak havoc on your body

By Brandon Dickinson, Basic HS

Steroids — not going to hurt you, right? Oh, it's just a muscle enhancer that will practically kill you.

Steroids are one of the most dangerous drugs in the world, believe it or not. They damage your liver, kidneys and even your heart, let alone all the other psychiatric side effects. Think twice before you inject this stuff.

Steroid use by teenagers has slowly risen during the 1990s, according to a federally funded annual survey created by the University of Michigan. In 1999, three percent of eighth, tenth and twelfth graders reported that they had taken anabolic steroids at least once. Back in 1991, only two percent of students their age had taken them.

Sales of the steroid supplement androstenedione skyrocketed after the investigation on the former homerun king Mark McGwire, who was using the substance in 1998. After the investigation, McGwire stopped using the substance, stating he "would never use it again." Pretty sad for a role model to baseball players everywhere to even think of using the substance.

Warning signs and dangers of steroid use include:

- Increased irritability, aggression, mood swings, confusion and depression.

- In males, shrinking of the testicles, difficulty urinating, baldness and even breast enlargement.

- In females, development of masculine characteristics such as deepening the voice, excessive growth of body hair, loss of scalp hair and decreased breast size.

- Severe acne and stunting of bone growth.

As one can see, anabolic steroids are dangerous. Don't get involved in something like this that can ruin your body and your life in general. That warning applies to steroid supplements as well. Although there is little info on supplements like creatine and andro, they are believed to have the same side effects as steroids.

Think again before bulking up and getting stronger quicker than the body is designed to.

between us

Forgotten, not forgiven, teen fathers fight for parental rights

By Christina Calata, Las Vegas HS

Most people relate teen pregnancy with a young mother, but what role does the father play? Teen fathers seem to always be blamed, forgotten or overlooked, but pregnancy is just as tough for them, and it drastically changes their lives as well.

Movies, music and television often make it seem as though teen fathers run away, but many want to be involved in their babies' lives. The mother is sometimes the one who runs away and doesn't allow the father to be a part of the child's life. Several recent studies have shown that teen fathers want to be involved with their children, but are fearful and don't know how to approach the subject. Also, many have to face negative reactions from the mother of the child or the parents of the mother.

The family of Arielle Mathews, a Las Vegas High School sophomore who is eight months pregnant, did not get along with her boyfriend's family, causing the situation to become more difficult. Mathews says that as the due date approaches, the families communicate more now and it has improved their relationship and made it easier for the father to be involved.

"We're just friends now because of the differences that his new girlfriend and I have," says Mathews. "But he always calls to check on me and to see how I'm doing."

Shannon Harris, a senior at Las Vegas High School, is living proof that although pregnancy affects teen fathers greatly, they are not always the villains who want to abandon the mother and their child.

When Harris first discovered his girlfriend was pregnant, he says, "I was scared, shocked, and I actually thought she was joking."

"I felt too young," he says. "I was only 15 then. You can't even get a job or anything. It was a big turnaround in my life."

He adds, "People think sex is the greatest thing, but sex can be

one of the worst experiences in your life too. It can change everything. Teens should just wait."

Harris, while scared



and in shock, was concerned about keeping everything a secret from his family, but he knew eventually they would find out.

"At first, when [my girlfriend] was around four or five months along, my uncle finally noticed and brought it to the attention of the rest of my family," Harris says. "They were upset. My mom was the only one who was not upset, maybe because she was out of town at the time. The rest of my family was very disappointed."

Although there were times when Harris could have left and not worried about the pregnancy any longer, he never did.

"There were points when she said if I wanted to leave I could, but I didn't want to because I grew

up without a father and I didn't want the baby to," Harris says.

It has been a year since he has seen his baby, not because he has left, but because the mother has.

"I haven't heard from my baby in a year," he says. "I moved and when I came back, I guess her feelings for me had changed."

Even after all of that Harris continues to want to be a part of his baby's life.

"I try. I call and no one answers, and I don't receive any phone calls back," Harris explains. "I found where she stayed, but then she just moved after that. Her mom is not helping me either. She's a different race and her mom has issues with that too."

Teen pregnancy affects a lot more people than just teen mothers. Teen fathers too have to deal with the ramifications of the situation. Harris says he would not wish pregnancy on any teen.

"If it hurts this much to me, I don't want anyone else to go through this."

Dating Rule No. 1

Hands off your friend's ex



By Riley Marriage, Coronado HS

What are the rules when it comes to friends and ex-boyfriends? Is it acceptable to date a friend's ex?

It has often been speculated over what the correct answer to this question is and when it truly comes down to it, it is as simple as black and white: You do not date your friend's ex.

While a common romantic relationship has a shelf life of roughly only a couple of weeks or months, the bonds of friendship can last for years. Friendships are based on long-lasting connections and common appreciation of similarities. One of the quickest ways to alienate a friend is to develop a flirtation with or date his or her ex. Especially in the short-circuited population of high school, it is only bound to cause more problems than it is worth.

Oftentimes when a relationship between two people fades away, there is still an unspoken and unexplainable attachment, even if the official relationship is a closed subject. Sometimes people are still attached to their exes even if they do not admit it. As time goes on, it might be hard for each party to watch as the other begins new relationships with other people, but it's especially heart wrenching to see it happen with a friend.

Out of respect and importance for your friendships, not dating a friend's ex is something that everyone should just abide by.

Suicide still a hot topic as teenagers battle everyday stresses

Statistics show that high school boys are four times more likely to actually follow through with plans to commit suicide than high school girls

By Danielle Klevgard,
Centennial HS

Suicide is a word that hits home for many teenagers today. These random and terrifying acts are in the papers, the media and in thousands of student's everyday lives.

Coping with the loss caused by suicide plagues thousands of people each year. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people age 15-19. In fact, Nevada has the highest suicide rate in the country!

"In my opinion, it stems from family, but teens may just be hanging around the wrong people," says Centennial High School counselor and assistant for CHS's Natural Helpers Dave Varrato. "It's hard to say what many teens are feeling. Usually hopelessness at having nowhere and no one to turn to for help."

"A close friend of mine had depression and had talked about killing himself," says Centennial senior Erica Dixon. "Only one of his friends believed him after seeing a gun in the back seat of his car. His best friend went to his house that day and found him standing in a back room with a gun in his hand. His friend tried to stop him, but he shot himself. He died a week later."

Guns are the most common method of suicide for males and account for approximately 60 percent of all suicides, nearly 80 percent of which are committed by white males. Statistics show that high school boys are four times more likely to actually follow through with plans to commit suicide than high school girls. The study "A Cry for Help" from the University of New Hampshire has also shown that, although females are more likely to attempt suicide,

What to do if you suspect someone is suffering

The University of New Hampshire study, (www.ceinfo.unh.edu/common/documents/gsc12701.htm) suggests various options as mediation for anyone who notices an individual experiencing suicidal behavior:

- ✓ Listen carefully to what he or she has to say.
- ✓ Don't interrupt.
- ✓ Be supportive and accepting.
- ✓ Don't criticize, judge or downplay his or her feelings or concerns.
- ✓ Ask questions about his or her feelings.
- ✓ Try to offer your help without suggesting he or she is emotionally or mentally disturbed.
- ✓ Tell him or her that asking for help isn't being weak.
- ✓ Stress that asking for help is a sign of maturity and good judgment.
- ✓ Try to make the person feel comfortable about asking for help.

And finally, if you believe a friend is suicidal, **DON'T LEAVE HIM OR HER ALONE**. Call a counselor, religious leader, or police for help.

males outnumber females in the United States' national suicide fatality rate.

"Guys are more violent and not so subtle. If they want to kill themselves they will," says Varrato. "I think girls subconsciously want people to know something is wrong."

Individuals experiencing certain forms of depression may be at a higher suicidal risk than those who do not experience depression. Other studies strongly suggest that substance abuse is a major catalyst to juvenile suicide. Drug and alcohol abuse contribute to suicide in several ways. People dependant on a certain substance may experience depression or social problems. The individual may feel worthless and think he or she has nothing to live for.

"Most of the time there is a connection between substance abuse and suicide," says Varrato. "Not always, but a lot of teenagers will use drugs or alcohol as an escape from reality."

Along with academic anxiety, peer pressures, parental issues and job stresses, many teenagers feel that they will never be good enough. One in every four female high school students and one in every five male high school students will seriously contemplate suicide while in high school.

Fortunately, most suicidal teens will demonstrate various behaviors as a "cry for help" before acting on their impulse. These noticeable behaviors include withdrawal from friends, family and regular activities, complaints of being a bad person, drug or alcohol abuse, committing violent acts, and even plainly stating that they plan to kill themselves.

One of the most common misconceptions regarding suicide is that the person who threatens suicide won't actually follow through.

"We have to act on it," says Varrato. "When a student tells us about a potentially suicidal friend talking about doing

harm to themselves or someone else, we can pull them out of class to talk to them." Their statement should always be taken seriously no matter what the circumstances.

Unfortunately, suicidal thoughts are oftentimes a problem that the person cannot overcome alone. Victims of the strangling suicidal feelings should know that they have many other options. Should an individual notice a friend or family member expressing various behaviors associated with suicide, they should act on it immediately.

Suicide takes thousands of lives every year, and shatters thousands beyond that. Like the spreading cracks in a stained-glass window, a single death won't affect merely one life. Instead, a spider web of pain will branch from that central impact, generating an array of disturbance among people whom that suicidal person had not even considered.

Suicide is a devastating burden for anyone to bear. It seems to be the hot topic of the age and it needs to stop. The first step to healing a wound is knowing what to do. By acknowledging the dangers of suicide and noting its effects, perhaps society can work together to put an end to the suffering.

For more information or help, you can call a suicide crisis hotline. Most are toll free and open 24 hours a day.

**Suicide Prevention
Hotline: 702-731-2990**

**National Hopeline
Network: 1-800-SUICIDE
(784-2433)**

**Girls and Boys Town
National Helpline:
1-800-448-3000**

**Crisis Call Center:
1-800-992-5757**

**Suicide Prevention
Hotline of Nevada:
1-877-885-HOPE**

Jilted kids: Parents' love lives take a toll on teens



By Kalla Kipp, Eldorado HS

It's a fact of life. Parents everywhere are getting divorced and remarried just like that. Does a parent's new intimate relationship ruin his or her relationship with the kids? It just might.

Some children of divorce say that they feel like they are being left out, while others say parents have their own lives and kids need to realize that.

Should kids have any say in their parents' relationships? Should parents care what their kids think? Probably.

A good parent ought to keep his or her kids involved with what's going on. Kids are a part of a parent's life, and every decision a parent makes is going to affect his or her child in one way or another. So yes, parents should always consult with their children before changing their lifestyle.

When parents start up new relationships, they are bringing changes not only to their own lives, but to their kids' lives as well. And that kind of change for kids has a bigger impact than most parents would like to admit.

Kids are very vulnerable, and they need some coddling; that is part of the reason we have to be with our parents until we are 18.

But children must realize that sometimes people need time to themselves, and they need to live and make mistakes and learn from those mistakes — even parents.

Sometimes it's important for kids to support their parents and help them through stressful times. The relationship between parents and kids is a give-and-take thing, and common courtesy goes a long way in making things work. You have to give a little to get a little sometimes. Kids have to realize that it's not always all about them.

Children and parents should set aside a time to talk, and they should be able to talk about anything and everything. If you don't do that, you will grow apart, and we've all seen that happen.

No one wants to ruin a good relationship just because he or she is going through a stressful or "needy" stage. If your mom or dad is acting like a teen in love, be careful, and as they say, be part of the solution, not part the problem.



Teens may not be prepared to face financial realities

By Stacy Alter, Western HS

Most teenagers do not understand the importance of money. They also do not understand the amount of money required in living a normal life. This occurs for a very simple reason: Parents provide teenagers with everything. Teenagers, therefore, live in a dream world. The moment an adolescent exits this dream world and has to live life by themselves, their opinions about money will change dramatically.

A lot of students plan to move out when they either graduate high school or when they turn 18. They do not understand the cost of living, from paying rent to monthly bills to basic necessities.

Some average monthly costs of living are:

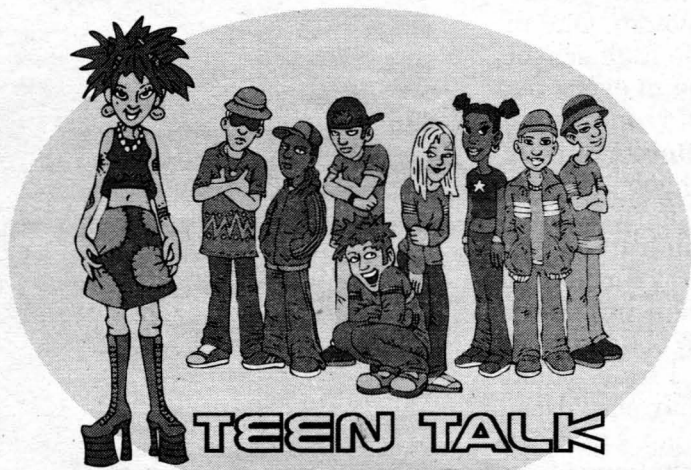
- rent: \$650
- car insurance: \$150
- car payment: \$200
- power bill: \$125
- cable: \$50
- phone: \$25
- food: \$150
- gas: \$50
- clothing: \$100
- miscellaneous purchases: \$175

That comes to a total of \$1,675 a month, plus other little things that people like to get.

Western High School senior Adrian Jennies may be considered a typical teen with a typical teen's income and expenses. Jennies gets his money from his parents or from working, and he says, "I spend most of it on bills, food or shopping."

The bills that he has to pay are his cell phone bill, which changes monthly, and his car insurance, which is \$160 a month. Obviously, there's quite a difference between the financial needs of teens and those of adults out on their own.

Students may not know the importance of money quite yet. But, as time goes on, their opinions will change about money, and they'll realize life isn't that easy without it.



TEEN TALK

By Monique Ford, Centennial HS

Dear Monique,

There's this girl I really like, and she told me that she liked me too, but whenever I am around her, I get mixed signals. Sometimes

she'll talk and flirt with me a lot, and other times, she'll hardly even look at me. How can I figure out how she really feels?

Mixed Signals

Dear Mixed Signals,

Well, you're never going to know what's going on in her head unless you give her a chance to explain. Since she's already told you that she has feelings for you, there is obviously potential for a relationship there. The best thing you can do is ask her out. If she says yes, then you'll know that her sometimes "off" behavior could have been insecurity about herself. If she says no, then she might just be a flirt, and you'll save yourself a lot of time finding out the truth now. Rather than second-

guessing her actions, talk to her.

Dear Monique,

I've been spending a lot of time with this guy, and we're starting to really like each other. He keeps asking me to be his girlfriend, but I think high school relationships are pointless. They rarely ever last, and I don't want to tie myself down. How can I keep him around without being his girlfriend?

No Commitment

Dear No Commitment,
Well, it's true that

most high school relationships don't last a lifetime since people change so much throughout their high school years. But if that's the only thing holding you back, you'll never know how far your relationship will go unless you give it a chance. It's unfair for him to be strung along when he wants something more serious than you're willing to give. If you're positive that you don't want a boyfriend at this time, let him know the truth so he can decide on his own if he wants to stick around.

My Way or the Highway

Take this quiz to see if you are spoiled rotten



By Hayley Croop, Faith Lutheran HS

1. It's Christmas morning and you and your family are opening gifts. Your brother got a new car and a \$100 gift certificate to Virgin Records, and you got stuck with an electronic dictionary and a sweater Grandma Peggy knitted for you. Do you:

A. Decide your parents hate you and whine to them about how you never get anything you want.

B. Swallow your pride and be happy for your bro. And hey, the trunk of his car is an awesome place to "lose" that sweater.

C. Ask your brother if you can go for a spin in his new ride after breakfast.

2. Your best friend tells you she'll call you at 8 p.m. to tell you all the details of her date with the hottie from French class. When 11:30 rolls around and she never called, do you:

A. Not talk to her at school the next day. Anyone who forgets about you deserves the silent treatment!

B. Call her and see what's up. You're dying to know those details, even in the middle of the night.

C. Not even care. You'll see her tomorrow at school, and you can catch up then.

3. You're at the mall with a friend shopping and you see this awesome Kate Spade purse on sale for only \$70. Only one problem: You only have \$35 left. Do you:

A. Beg your friend to buy it with her credit card as a gift for you, saying that she's not your true friend if she doesn't get it.

B. Ask her sweetly if she wants to split the cost and you'll pay her back the second you get your next paycheck.

C. Don't say anything. You're shopping for other people today, not yourself. You can always come back and get it another time.

4. It's Saturday night and you're about to leave and go to the movies with some of your friends. You're just about to open the front door when your dad yells from the living room, "Before you leave, can you empty the dishwasher?" Do you:

A. Yell back at him that you're about to leave and don't have time and then walk out the door.

B. Roll your eyes and ask if he needs it this instant because you're on your way out. And when he says, "Yes please," you walk into the kitchen and unload it quickly.

C. Turn around and head back to the kitchen to unload it. It's the least you could do, and after all he gave you \$40 to go out tonight.

5. You're president of student council and you are having a meeting about the decorations for the "Snow Ball" winter formal. You think that a good portion of the money should go to a snowman ice sculpture in the center, while most of the other

members think fake snow on the ground would make it really cool. Do you:

A. Use your authoritative position and veto their votes so only yours counts. Ice sculpture all the way!

B. Try to convince them of the positive ways an ice sculpture would impact the lives of the kids ... and when you see they aren't buying that, you give Sally's Seasonal Prop Shop a call and put an order out for fake snow.

C. Go for the snow. Besides, you know on the inside the snowman was a little lame even though it would have been so cute!

6. How many Von Dutch hats do you own?

A. Three to five — duh, they're so cute, I just can't help myself!

B. Just one. I begged my parents for it and helped around the house to get money.

C. Von who? What is that?

7. You and your sister are decorating the Christmas tree. She wants to use the new stuff that your mom bought like white lights and gold and burgundy ornaments for an elegant look. But you want to use the stuff you've always used: the colored blinking lights and the random, bright ornaments. Do you:

A. Do it your way. Hey, you're older and wiser, and what's better than a traditional Christmas tree?

B. Tell her that you guys can decorate the tree with the new stuff. But then you ask her if she can help you find the small, 3-foot tree to put in your room. You're determined to use those stupid decorations, even if you only decorate your room with them.

C. Go with the elegant look. It's good for a change sometimes, and your sister is right — everyone is older now, so maybe a more grown-up look would be nice.

So that's it. The quiz is complete, now go on and read your answers to see what they reveal.

Mostly A's=Spoiled Rotten

Do you smell something? I do — something spoiled rotten! Well, aren't you just a lucky duck! You seem to get a whole lot of attention. Try to spread the good will and remember, the world doesn't revolve around you!

Mostly B's=Wise Guy

You like to give, but not too much, which is a very good thing. Maybe you could spread more joy by helping out your fellow "A" and "C" quizzers by setting a good example for them to follow.

Mostly C's=Great Giver

It's great to give back to the community, but that doesn't mean you can't think about yourself. Great job being so generous and kind, but don't forget to reward yourself for all the hard work.

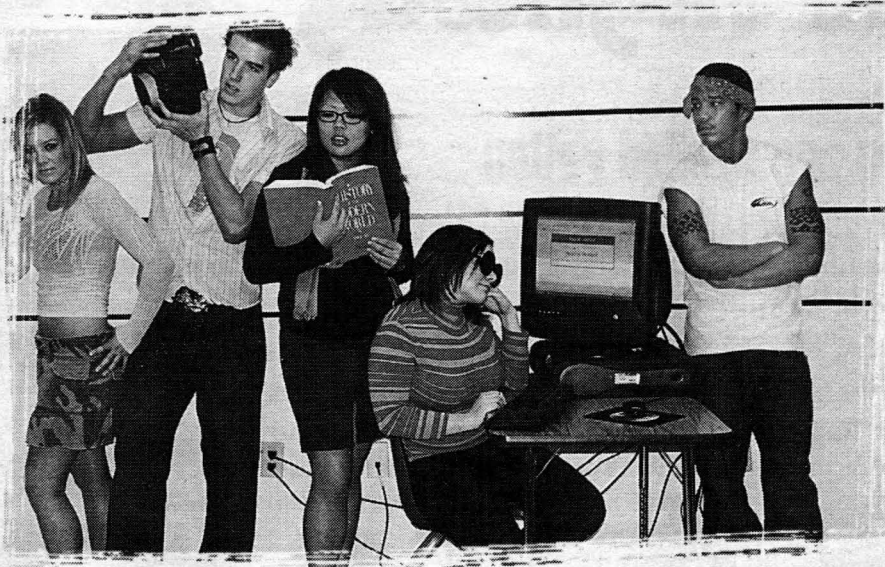


Photo by Stephanie Espinoza.

You can't do *that* in high school

The administration watches what you wear, what you do, and even what you say, but do they have the right?

You might be surprised.

By Lori Faber,
Green Valley HS

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness..."

Wait. Rewind. Do we?

In the public school setting, it turns out students don't have as many rights as they think

they do.

"We don't have many rights as students," says Green Valley High School senior Cathy Cheung. "We have our rights to be students and attend school. We don't have rights to ditch, or rights to say anything we want to say. The school has the right to set those guidelines."

Numerous guidelines are used to determine what rights are those of the students and what rights are those of the school. More often than not, the

rights belong to the school.

"Being able to learn is my right," says Green Valley senior Jacinda Dietz.

She's correct.

"The only right that students are given in writing is the material right to an education," says Dr. Edward Goldman, Clark County School District Southeast Region Superintendent.

This in mind, a suspension lasting over 10 days is considered revoking a student's right to an education. Because of this, students may not be given a suspension lasting longer than 10 days without being able to tell their side of the story as the result of the right to "due process" clauses in the Fifth and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

"The best way to explain 'due process' is to reverse the words," Goldman says. "It is the process due to you."

According to Goldman, with due process, students have the right to be told what rule they have violated and why they are being punished, the right to an opportunity to be heard and verbally defend themselves, and the right to appeal their punishment to a higher court.

Any punishment resulting in less than a 10-day suspension is not considered a great enough deprivation of a student's right to an education to require due process. Such punishments can be as simple as a change of seats in a classroom or a dress code violation.

When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, he wasn't speaking of high school students.

"It's not about restricting rights," Green Valley Assistant Principal Vivian Jackson says about the expectation of students and the rules set up for them. "It's about complying with the positive norms and standard of society."

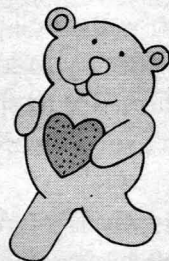
Green Valley teacher Erin Hill agrees.

"It's just like everything else," she says. "You don't have the right to murder or steal. Those aren't rights; those are crimes. People have to adapt to their societies, and students have to adapt to the rules of the school. Disobeying them only creates more rules."

Falling For You

By JD Douglas, Coronado HS

When I saw you for the first time,
The wall started falling fast.
The pain that had been unending
Was thrown into the past.
You turned my way and smiled,
Your face, as bright as the sun.
I knew at that very moment,
The past was finally done.
You awoke my heart in every way,
Like I thought it could never be.
You succeeded in making me smile again;
You finally set me free.
So, as I face the future,
With you by my side,
The new me is alive again,
And the old me ... has finally died.



Time to apply for college scholarships

By Troy Steadman,
Basic HS

For many college-bound seniors, it's time to apply for scholarships, which help pay for tuition, books and other fees. The best way to do that would be to apply for the many scholarships available in the counselor's office.

Several seniors like Basic High School's Chris Lupo and Cheryl Tullgren haven't filled out applications yet.

"I plan to take a year off then go to college," says Lupo. Tullgren doesn't intend to ever fill one out.

Several seniors who are definitely college bound have begun applying.

Basic senior Jamil Dyer has already filled out the Ron Brown Scholarship, which is a scholarship exclusively for African Americans and is worth up to \$10,000. When asked what she plans to do as a career, Dyer says, "I think I might go into design and marketing, stuff like that."

Cortney Durand, a Basic senior, also has her sights set on going to college. Durand filled out the paperwork for one scholarship and plans to fill out more.

"If I'm a dentist, it will take eight years of college and I will need financial aid," Durand says.

Filling out scholarships is time consuming, so make sure you give yourself time.

Richard Compton, another senior at Basic, says, "It's important for seniors to get scholarships, but it's hard getting everything together and getting it done."

Mike Bair, Basic High's scholarship counselor, says, "Think of it as a part-time job. It takes time to earn money."

He also gave a hint for those who want to fill out as many scholarship applications as they can. "Quality before quantity. Still, do as many as you can," he says.

Students will have to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form to qualify for financial aid, and scholarship opportunities will continue to be available at your counselor's office throughout the end of the school year. Just remember, don't procrastinate.

Turn the tables and grade your teacher online

By Tiffany Yanke,
Shadow Ridge HS

Want a good controversy? Log on to the Web site www.RateMyTeachers.com and you'll read all about it!

But don't think about logging on at a computer at your school because the Clark County School District has blocked school computers from going to this site. I wonder if that is one of the reasons why Rate My Teachers has put us on their "Wall of Shame"? Of course RMT also has a "Wall of Fame." Leading that list is Liberty High School in Bakersfield, Calif. that met the requirement of 1,000 or more ratings and their teachers had the highest percentage of positive ratings with 5,116 ratings tallied.

The school with the most ratings turned in is Brooklyn Tech High School in New York with over 11,300 ratings. These and many other schools across the nation encourage their students to express their opinions and the teachers appreciate the ideas expressed by the classes.



Many teachers have written their thanks under the Forum site that RMT offers. One comment said, "Thank you for the service you are providing. I encourage students to make comments about me on your Web site. I ask them to be fair and respectful of my feelings, but not to hold back on what they think. Whether good or bad, they helped me improve."

Another said, "I just wanted you to know that I love your initiative. I always have students rate my class anonymously, as I feel their feedback is essential to my teaching. Our principal is also on board and loves the idea of empowering the students to give feedback to their teachers."

Parents and students also appreciate this fantastic way to express their freedom of speech. One student said, "Maybe this could help teachers see exactly

what kind of effects they are having on these children. Whenever I had a cool teacher in school, we would treat that teacher as he or she should be. Even the burnout kids would enjoy those classes."

A college student said she would check out the Ratemyprofessors.com site first before choosing her professors for next term's classes.

"Tell your teachers why you love them or why the class is tough."

There is much more to the Rate My Teachers site than you might think. They have a forum section you can go into and express your opinions on many different topics. Topics range from "Speak your mind," to "Grading standards," and "What bugs you," or even "Same sex weddings," and of course, "Michael Jackson."

You could spend hours just in the forum section, but they also have a section for teachers with ideas on lesson plans and for students needing homework help. It is truly a site that is up-to-date on current topics and issues for teens today. If you want to express your freedom of speech, then give it a try!

Michael Hussey, co-founder of RateMyTeachers.com says on the site "We put the students' voice into the public debate. Tell your teachers why you love them or why the class is tough."

Of course the Web site has rules. They are pretty strict with them although they are

not that tough to follow. No name-calling, threats, sexual innuendo or profanity is allowed. You must stick to the subject and not get personal. The school site administrator will delete improper comments. As of Nov. 13, 2003, this site hit the three-million-ratings mark; that's pretty good for only two years on line.

Obviously there has got to be a little controversy here because even though over 60 percent are positive ratings, that leaves almost 40 percent that are not. But not all teachers look at that as a "teaching" or "learning" experience.

One teacher under the forum section said, "It has done nothing to encourage me or motivate me."

Another said, "This Web site is extremely offensive and downright nasty. If you know the first thing about teenagers, you would know that this Web site is nothing more than a grudge match."

I am really glad they are not my teachers! I think this is an excellent opportunity for us to express to our fantastic teachers that we love them. Teachers and students alike get a pat on the back for a job well done. I think it would be fantastic if we could have a RateMyDoctors.com, RateMyRestaraunts.com, RateMyMechanic.com or a RateMyPoliticians.com, and I think the list could go on and on!

Controversy or not, this Web site is inventive, beneficial and here to stay! So hey, students of the Clark County School District, when you are at home on your computers, log on to www.RateMyTeachers.com and tell us what you think!

Dreams

By Leanna Vindiola, Valley HS

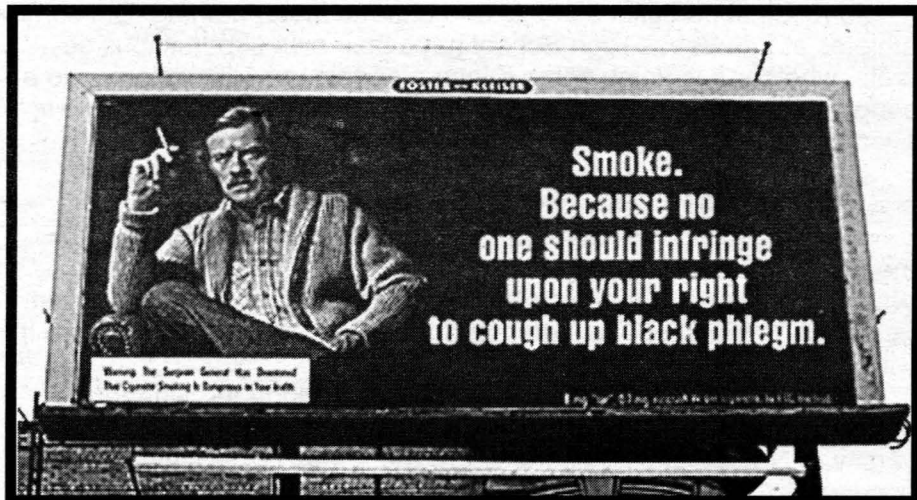
As I gaze into the sun,
Rays of light fall into my eyes.
I see things how they should be,
And I cry.

Emotions are ever so strong,
Internally, I die.
Faces are so strong,
My questions are why.

As I stare up at the moon,
The bright glow dazes me.
I then step into a dream,
As the images of a perfect world
Flash before my eyes.

I see so many smiles,
Happiness fills the air.
Everything you need is before you,
A smooth path at your feet.

I then realize I was in a daze,
As the smile melts from my face.
I then turn around
And step back into reality as
One last tear splashes
Upon the cold
Bitter
Cement.



open mic

When skateboarding arrived in the 1950s, it was regarded as a passing fad, just as with any trend. By the mid 1960s it had been completely forgotten. Skateboarding from then on was considered a social disease, which only burnouts and social outcasts used as a pastime.

In the mid 1970s, surfers in California used skateboarding only as an after-surfing activity when the waves died out. Instead of riding waves, they could ride asphalt. Schoolyards and city streets were frequented as places to skate.

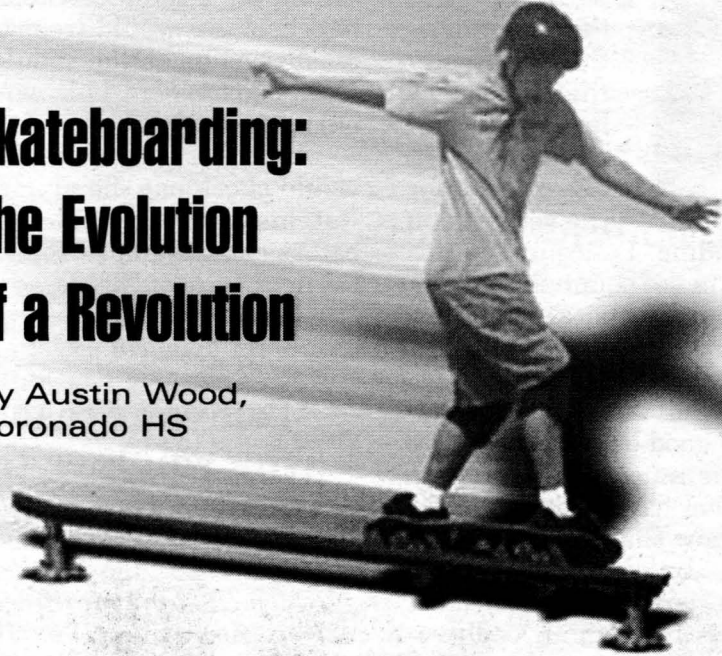
In Santa Monica in the '70s, a group of teenage kids brought a once-competitive pastime back from the dead and pioneered the style and techniques that are used still today in skateboarding. They called themselves The Zephyr Team, and the tricks and people they influenced would forever grace the pages of magazines, TV and the lockers and rooms of many aspiring skateboarders.

At first, surfing was king and skateboarding was a close second for the kids. But as good waves were few and far apart, skateboarding was always convenient. Getting a skateboard, however, was a different story.

In an interview with Glide Magazine Online, veteran skater Stacy Peralta explains, "If you wanted a skateboard back then, you had to go to the thrift store, buy a pair of roller

Skateboarding: The Evolution of a Revolution

By Austin Wood,
Coronado HS



skates with clay wheels, cut 'em in half, then go out in your garage and try and find an old drawer out of a dresser that was a nice half-inch or three-fourths-inch oak if you were lucky." Screw on the wheels and you were ready to go.

The team hung out with their mentors: Skip Engblom, Jeff Ho and Craig Stecyk at The Zephyr Surf Shop, on the corner of Main and Bay in Santa Monica, where Ho made his signature surfboards. As polyurethane wheels

were introduced, skateboarding got big again, and the major companies started holding contests.

The Zephyr Team went to the Del Mar Nationals in California with one thing in mind, to blow the competition away. Of course they did. While other teams were doing the moves from the old days of skateboarding, such as toes on the nose, handstands and spins, The Z-Boys did their usual, mimicking surfboard tricks from their idols

such as Larry Bertelman. The judges were confused, the competitors threw fits, and the crowd went wild.

After sweeping the Del Mar Nationals, the team went home to conquer their new challenge, skating pools. During the late '70s, California experienced the worst drought in its history. As an effect, pools became empty and free to skate (disregarding trespassing laws). Not only did a specific style evolve here, but also tricks, such as grinding, pivoting and the very first aerial came to be.

Years passed, the Z-Boys all went their separate ways. The two most successful were Stacy Peralta and Tony Alva. Peralta went on to create Powell Peralta, a successful skateboarding company and formed The Bones Brigade Skateboarding Team, which sponsored such famous skateboarders as Tony Hawk and Steve Caballero. Alva created his company, Alva Skateboarding Company, which is still operated today in Oceanside, Calif. He also was featured in the videos "Skateboard" and "Thrashin."

In 2000, Peralta wrote and directed a documentary featuring all the Z-Boys called "Dogtown and Z-Boys." The film was shown at the Sundance Film Festival in 2001 and won two awards. Although The Z-Boys have disappeared into obscurity, their mark on skateboarding is immeasurable, even for skateboarders today.

Knock wood, sports superstitions help athletes succeed

By Jesse Ranon, Las Vegas HS

Maybe you've heard about the things people do for a sport, putting their bodies on the line, spending time away from their families on the road in professional sports, or brushing up on ways to improve aside from practice. For example, some baseball players sleep with their bats to get out of a hitting slump or to stay in a groove. But of course, we're all too smart to believe superstitions, right?

To most, superstitious habits and charms mean nothing. But some athletes at Las Vegas High School have their own superstitious secrets, whether it is doing some things a certain way, like listening to a song over and over, or performing pre-game meditation. Let's face it; even sports superstars have their own charms and procedures.

Las Vegas junior Lindsay McKean, a girls' varsity soccer team player, prays before every game for everyone "to do their best."

McKean, along with teammate junior Jennifer Woodruff, juggles the ball, kicking it in the air and keeping it from hitting the ground. Woodruff believes that having these superstitions and traditions "just helps you to feel more confident and in control, and it's fun to share it with other people."

Other examples of superstition in sports include the wearing or keeping of charms on or in the uniform. Michael Jordan wore his University of North Carolina shorts under the shorts of his Chicago Bulls uniform.

LVHS girls' basketball player Jasmine White, a sophomore, says, "I have a silver basketball charm. I put it in my sports bra near my heart, and if I don't have it, I don't know what I'll do!"

Others go to lesser extremes when it comes to charms. Football and basketball player Dominique Lawton has a bracelet that he wears just during basketball season.

Las Vegas High School's varsity football team developed its own tradition. The players touch a team photo of the '98 varsity team before they go out for games. The '98 team went to the playoffs with a team of only 18 players. The picture of the team reminds the present football team to be motivated and work together.

Art Plunkett, former NFL lineman, believed in the "exact same" routine. "If you're doing good, keep the same routine," Plunkett said. "Change it, and it changes your luck."

Where are sports superstitions made up? Where do they come from? But more importantly, how do players fall into habits and beliefs? Some players, like LVHS volleyball player Lauren Cizmas, a junior, picked up the "traditions" of the personal handshake and knocking on wood from the coaches and older players.

To some, the line between a ritual and superstitions is blurred. Getting hyped up by rallying the team in a battle cry is a given. Warming up in a certain way, consistently, is considered a ritual. So do rituals and charms actually work? It's all in the mind of the believer.

OVER THE EDGE



X-Scream's twisted ways mess with riders' minds, adding terror to the Stratosphere Tower

By Lori Faber, Green Valley HS

We as humans have an innate fear of heights, and an ironic need to tempt fate.

X-Scream, the third and newest ride atop the Stratosphere Hotel Tower, pushes our fear of heights to the limits in a way that begs the question, "What sick freak thought this would be fun?"

Though a more appropriate question to be asking is, "Are you sure this thing is safe?" The most intelligent people are obviously those on the ground shaking their heads in disbelief.

X-Scream does the unthinkable. Perched 108 stories above the Strip, this giant teeter-totter of a ride flings its riders 27 feet over the edge of the tower at speeds of 30 miles per hour while they scream for their mommies like little children. There's an IHOP restaurant right below the Stratosphere, but no one would know it was there if it weren't for being able to read the writing on the

roof while dangling from the edge of the tallest building west of the Mississippi.

It's the anticipation of the ride that makes it nerve-wracking.

Standing in line watching people disappear from sight as they hang in limbo over the side of the Stratosphere, the mind comes up with the most terrifying worst-case scenarios, the most gruesome possibilities of plummeting at incredible speeds toward certain death.

Again: "Are you sure this thing is safe?"

In fact, X-Scream's bite hardly lives up to its bark. Certainly, anyone with an extreme fear of heights should probably not ride X-Scream, but these are also the people who don't dare to even ride the elevator to the top of the Stratosphere.

Undeniably, it's frightening as the X-Scream car teeters over the edge the first time and then falls to where the ground is in full view 866 feet below, before tottering slowly back to the safety of the tower. You know what to expect, but somehow expecting isn't enough.

Riders teeter over the edge and back three times on each ride, the scariest one being when the ride falters and slips a little while riders are already suspended over the ledge. I'll admit, I screamed and said a quick prayer before realizing that X-Scream wasn't actually malfunctioning and that I would survive to tell about my experiences.

What it is that makes the X-Scream conquerable is its speed. At 30 miles per hour, the ride isn't even moving as fast as most city streets allow.

And while being 866 feet above the ground is scary in its own right, instinct tells you that falling should be done faster, and the tiny (and crazy) voice in the back of your head screams, "That's it?"

However, at higher speeds, X-Scream would probably launch the car off the side of the Stratosphere on sheer momentum, which is most definitely far from a desirable result.

Ultimately, X-Scream is worth a ride, though I doubt its intimidating exterior can withstand many more than one or two rides.

For real excitement atop the Stratosphere, I'm sticking with the speed and zero-G's of the Big Shot.

Ride of your life: How safe are amusement parks?

Recent accidents at top amusement parks cast doubt on ride safety

By Kasey Blackburn, Bonanza HS

Vacation time is supposed to be about relaxation and no worries. For these reasons, amusement park employees are hired to provide a fun and safe environment for the millions of people who visit their resort. Of the millions of visitors, there have been handfuls of injuries and fatalities, due to rule resentment or an attraction error. Are amusement parks as safe as they seem or are people

waiting hours in lines to meet an uncertain fate?

Obviously, there is no guarantee that a ride is going to be 100-percent safe. According to www.securityworld.com, out of 270 million people who visit amusement parks annually, 7,000 are sent to the emergency room due to an error in the attraction.

In March 2002 a woman fell out of her seat on one of the various roller coasters at Knott's Berry Farm. The ride was said to have improper restraints or operating instructions.

On the other hand, there have been many tourists who have chosen to neglect a ride's

terms, causing avoidable injuries. For example, a 14-year-old boy suffered from a fractured foot after being run over in the "Alice in Wonderland" ride at the Disneyland resort. Clearly, he failed to recall the "Keep your hands and feet inside the vehicle at all times" rule. This rule is enforced on most rides at all amusement parks.

Most recently, there have been about a dozen injuries and one death at the Disneyland attraction Big Thunder Mountain Railroad. The ride derailed and the first part of the thrill ride detached from the remainder of the carts. Investigators believe the accident was a malfunction, yet terrorism and sabotage are

not being ruled out.

Being harmed by playing sports or driving a car is more likely to occur than being hurt at an amusement park because parks are required to update systems and check for errors or glitches on numerous occasions.

Just remember: There are reasons that there are rules and requirements. Complete safety has never been promised. Accidents can occur without knowing that there was the slightest miscalculation. If the rules are obeyed, there is little to worry about while attending an amusement park because the mechanical errors are usually pointed out before a person can get hurt.

Story Of The Year explodes onto rock scene



By Jessica Roadhouse, Indian Springs HS

Story Of The Year's CD "Page Avenue" has been popping up everywhere since it debuted in 2003.

The CD kicks off with "And The Hero Will Drown," a fast-paced song, which is only a taste of the rest of the CD.

On "Sidewalks," singer Dan Marsala lets out all of his emotions and sings about the old days in St. Louis, Mo.

By blending fast, hardcore songs with catchy, melodic ballads, their major label debut is quickly becoming a hit with kids all over the country.

The video for their first single, "Until The Day I Die," has been getting major airplay on MTV2 Rock and was also featured on "New Faces: Rock," a program that showcased up-and-coming bands MTV2 thought would be big in 2004.

In the band's early days, they were known as Big Blue Monkey and most of their songs were Ozzy Osbourne covers. But, as they guys grew up and the lineup of the band changed, the music grew. Judging by the recent explosion in the band's success, change is good.

It definitely didn't hurt to hook up with John Feldmann of Goldfinger, who produced and mixed the album.

The boys have been touring almost nonstop since the album came out, which has also helped to expand their fan base.

Although the boys admit to being immature, they take their music seriously and don't write their songs based solely on their teenage years, like many musicians today do. Check them out at their official Web site: www.Storyoftheyear.net.

Jessica Simpson book offers tips for fairytale wedding

By Mytae Carrasco, Bishop Gorman HS

If you didn't get enough of Jessica Simpson on "Newlyweds," she published her very own book called "I Do: Achieving Your Dream Wedding." The book is filled with photographs of her wedding day and helpful tips on having a wedding fit for a celebrity.

The book also includes interviews from her entire wedding team, from fashion designer Vera Wang, pastry chef Sam Godfrey, hair colorist Ken Paves, wedding coordinator Mindy Weiss, photographer Joe Buissink and manicurist Melissa Bozant Washington to name a few. This team plus a few others contributed to Simpson's dream come true.

The book covers everything from having your wedding at the right place to showers and gifts to the "magical moment." Simpson's celebrity-style wedding included customized napkins with the couple's initials. The couple also gave each guest a CD of the two songs they had written for each other. Everyone who has seen the reality show knows how ditzy Simpson can be. The wedding dress was quite complicated, so Vera Wang wrote out instructions on how to put the wedding dress on. The book was published before the reality show came out so you won't be seeing any Chicken of the Sea or Buffalo wing comments.

For a non-celebrity wedding couple, this would be a little bit over the top and very unrealistic. But if you know someone who is planning a wedding and who is a big fan of Simpson's, and who has a big wedding budget, this might be the book for him or her. Until then, hold off on making any proposals.



With underage fun in short supply, Vegas teens get creative

By Leilani Zee, LV Academy

Sin City, Party Town, Las Vegas: All of these names conjure the image of the buzzing, neon metropolis that so many of us call home.

But for the percentage of the population that isn't 21 and over, life here can be pretty dull, or at least that's what some think.

"Being in Las Vegas, you would think there would be a plethora [of things to do for teenagers], but it's not more than most other places," says Las Vegas Academy senior Eric Deloretta. "A couple of years ago, Las Vegas tried to market itself as a family place, but now it's sticking strictly to the 21 and over crowd, which means less for us. Not that there was much to begin with."

Las Vegas will never be able to market itself as a family fun center as long as there are 10-foot-tall billboards flashing half-naked women (and recently, men too), but surprisingly, new venues are springing up around the city made to serve the underage crowd that has a thirst to party.

In the past, there have been numerous attempts by underage-sympathetic people to establish venues tailored for teens, but needless to say, the success of these establishments has been less than stellar. A combination of a lack of spending money by the consumers, and a lack of publicity for the venues makes the teen scene in Vegas a hard thing to keep up with. By the time the hole-in-the-wall joint that suits all good-time needs is discovered, and a group of non-working teenagers that have extra time on their hands scrounges up enough money to go out, the place is closed.

But these hardships of teenage life are everywhere, not just in Vegas.

"I think we're doing pretty well considering the way other places accommodate teens," says LVA senior Niki Habbe. "We have movies and bowling alleys and the other teenage venues that other places have."

LVA junior Shaina Johnson agrees, saying, "It seems like there's nothing to do here because I live here, but I guess we're the same as other places."

While some think that Vegas is no different in its lack of things for young people to do, others think it's a bit stronger here than in other places.

"A lot of concerts here are usually held by a casino, and while the show might be all ages in one state, because the venues in Vegas are in casinos, the concerts are mostly 21 and up because of the atmosphere," says Deloretta.

While Vegas may not accommodate teens with the same pulsating nightlife that it gives to those of legal drinking age, new clubs and venues are beginning to rear their heads. Skate parks, nightclubs and music halls are shining a ray of light over the bleak underage-fun-deficient valley.

Club Zodiac, an underage nightclub that runs on Saturday nights, offers a safe environment for teens to dance to the latest in hip hop music. The Huntridge, a local underage music venue, offers numerous concerts for the alternative, hard rock and punk followers each month.

The best thing about these two venues is that they're completely affordable. Concert tickets at the Huntridge range from \$10 to \$20, and Club Zodiac entry is \$10, unless you're a girl who gets in before 10:30 p.m.; then entry is free.

Revisiting childhood can make for some fun teenage romps too. Ice skating, roller skating, miniature golf, batting cages, arcades and bumper cars are all things that many teens haven't done since their voices matched those of the Chipmunks, but these old pastimes can still feel like new experiences. After being off the ice for a couple of years, it will still hurt like the first time when you fall.

But, in truth, where to meet up with friends doesn't really matter, as long as it's fun.

"As long as I'm hanging out with my friends, I'm fine," says Deloretta. "We make our own fun, whether it's at home or at the mall."

So grab some friends, scrounge some cash and enjoy being young, even if that means kicking back at home with a bowl of something fried and the entire Monty Python collection on DVD.

Just know that if sitting in your scrubs all weekend isn't the idea of an awesome time you had in mind, there are other options awaiting a chance to prove themselves worthy of entertaining the selective underage group.

Saturday Feb. 21

"The World Famous"
Rock Steady Crew
in conjunction with
The City Of Las Vegas
&
The Neonopolis
Presents...

Yes We Can Can!

the 8th annual
canned food & blanket drive

Saturday Feb. 21st 2004 @ The Neonopolis from 3pm-7pm
An All Ages Event Featuring Performances By:
The Rock Steady Crew, The Chapter, Q Unique, Artson, Ase Box,
Son of Sid, The Fresh Foundation, Lil' Boogaloo, Tiny Boogz,
DeeJayz: Presto One, V DEZ, Slynke, Chico Scienz,
*Special Guest Appearances by Legendary Hip Hop Icons:
Crazy Legs, Mr. Wiggles, Mr. Freeze,
*Free entry to the public with Canned goods
& Blanket donations*
*Proceeds from this event will be donated to help
the homeless community of Las Vegas

Check Out:
www.rocksteadycrew.com
www.thecityoflasvegas.com
www.neonopolis.com

** get involved! email: " yeswecan@i3beats.com " **

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"Free Parking," by Danny Gobaud, Las Vegas Academy.



What's so magical about Harry Potter?

By Judy Monarrez, Desert Pines HS

What is so interesting about the children's book, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"? That's what I thought when the books first came out. I actually thought it was dumb. I was too busy listening to the Backstreet Boys and O-Town CDs to even notice.

Then the first movie came out. It caught my attention a little, but I dismissed it as just another crappy novel-turned-movie. The books continued to come out up to Harry, the main character's, fourth year, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." The second movie came out and that's when I started getting interested. I absolutely fell in love with the series, even though the main character was some kid with a funny scar on his forehead, who made things happen with a stick and a few lyrical words.

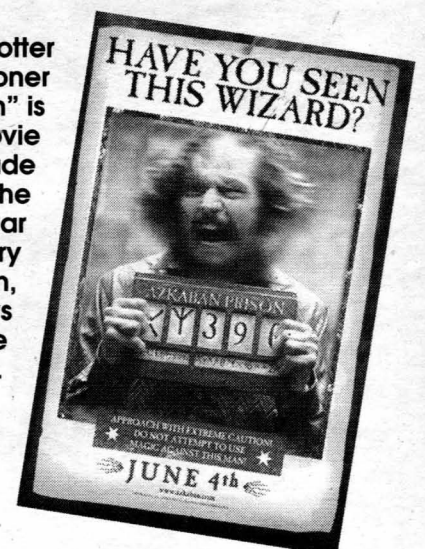
I went to the library and read the other two books. "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," in my opinion, was the best book in the series. It unveiled the criminal Sirius Black, and what the wizard prison, Azkaban, really held. I then checked out the fourth book, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," in which the villain, Lord Voldemort, rises from the ashes and threatens to bring darkness to the world. It kept the reader totally sucked in.

Every HP fan kept their eyes and ears open for any hints about the fifth and newest book: "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." I read that book in two days! I never put it down! Harry Potter mania has struck me and I'm addicted. I even find myself reading fan fiction on the Internet, thinking that maybe somehow it would make time go faster.

The third movie, "Prisoner of Azkaban," comes out in theaters on June 4, 2004, and I know I'm going to be in line on opening day.

So what makes Harry Potter so magical? It's your imagination that holds the key.

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" is the third movie to be made from the popular books. Gary Oldman, right, plays Sirius, the prisoner.



open mic

I Never Knew

By Sherri Lockinger, Silverado HS

I never knew I could be in love,
In love with someone like you
Whom I haven't known for long,
Who is always loving and caring
For what they have in their life.

I never knew the stars could be so bright,
And your face's reflection of the moon.
How could anyone live,
Live without someone like you?
I never knew life could be this good,
Oh, so good with you.
With you in my life,
With as much love as you give,
My life would be empty without you.

I never knew love could be so true,
As true as the love you give.
Now knowing that you'll be there every day
No matter what happens in the life I live,
I will always know you will be there.

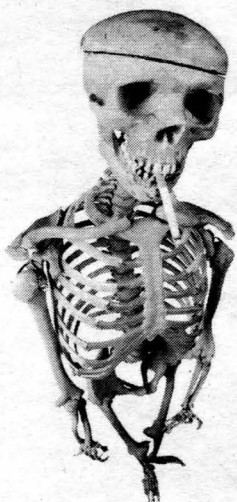
Did you know...

In 1982-83 cigarette prices increased, causing two million adults to stop smoking and preventing 600,000 teenagers from ever starting.

More than \$71 million is spent in advertising tobacco per year in Nevada alone.

IS YOUR LIFE BEING CONTROLLED BY CIGARETTES?

The American Lung Association has a program at your school to help you quit smoking. A class will be starting at your school soon!



Take Control, Kick the HABIT!

N-O-T
NOT ON TOBACCO

The smoking cessation program just for teens.



Join N-O-T!

A free and fun way to help you quit smoking!

For more information and 100% youth-friendly and confidential help, visit the nurse's office or call Novelette at The American Lung Association at 431-6333.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION of Nevada

Visit us at: <http://www.lungs.org/>

Music Reviews

The Matches strike right chord with punk fans

By Anna Scarpa,
Coronado HS

Normally, opening bands are a drag to listen to when waiting for the much-anticipated headlining band to perform their act, but at the show featuring bands Lit and American Hi-Fi last November, it was a different story.

When the opening act first approached the stage, I had the thought, "Hurry up. I am not paying to see you." Once the band announced that they were The Matches and began to play, my initial opinion began to change and it appeared that the rest of the crowd felt the same way. Many people enjoyed The Matches even more than the headlining bands.

The Matches is a group from Oakland, Calif. that consists of Shawn Harris, Jon Devoto, Matt Whalen and Justin San Souci. The guys have been making music since they were 16 years old and had just recently composed an independent album titled "E. Von Dahl Killed the Locals," that they put together in their own living rooms and basements.

The album consists of 10 catchy, punk rock songs and a bonus track, all of which they wrote themselves. Since they independently recorded the album without a record company, it is not sold in stores. The Matches have been selling their album at all of their shows since February 2003, and have successfully sold 4,500 copies. On Dec. 3, 2003, The Matches gathered in Jerry's Pizza in Los Angeles with executives from Epitaph Records, and there they signed a contract joining a real record label for the first time.

Since then, The Matches launched a new headlining tour, which will stop in Las Vegas, and managed to get their song "Audio Blood" on the radio. Epitaph Records is planning on re-releasing "E. Von Dahl Killed the Locals" with a

few changes, requested by the band, so that their independent CD will remain a keepsake for their first group of fans.

According to the band, the CD will not have the song "Superman," but feature two new songs, "More than Local Boys" and "Borderline Creep." The original album, which is now a limited edition, will continue to be sold at their shows until the remaining stock is gone. You can also find it on Smartpunk.com, but not for long.

As written in The Matches' journal, since they signed with Epitaph, the band knows that they are on their way. This is not going to be the last time that anyone hears about The Matches.

American Nightmare blends hardcore rock and blues

By Joseph Isanan,
Eldorado HS

Just when you think this band can't get any better, they put out "Background Music." When you get this album, be prepared to have it stay in your CD player for days.

If the song "Shoplifting In A Ghost Town" doesn't give you chills, I don't know what will. Lead singer/songwriter Rod's lyrics are better than ever on this album. You HAVE to read the lyrics as you listen to this the first time. American Nightmare is one of the greatest bands out there, mixing hardcore and the classic, raspy screaming with heartfelt poetic lyrics.

Although this album is amazing in its own way, I would still choose the self-titled E.P. or their other E.P., "The Sun Isn't Getting Any Brighter." I'm not saying that "Background Music" is a bad album; I'm just saying that the album could have been better if they had stuck with their old material.

Nonetheless this is an awesome album. I would recommend it to anyone who wants to hear good hardcore music.

DMX returns to hip-hop roots on latest CD

By Linh Vo,
Las Vegas HS

DMX is going back to the basics on his latest CD. Like DMX's first two CDs, "It's Dark and Hell is Hot" and "Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood," the newly re-named and released "Grand Champion" has a very grimy street feel to it. Tracks like the hot single "Where the Hood At?" and "Bring Tha Noize" make your head bounce to the beat.

Also featured on the album is the highly anticipated DMX/50 Cent collaboration "Shot Down," where DMX brings hip-hop back to its purest form, The Battle. In this track, 50 Cent nicely delivers lyrics like "Some say I'm gangsta/some say I'm crazy/if you asked me, I'm what the hood made me."

Or the verse where DMX blasts his former friend Ja Rule for "being soft" and "for cheating on his fans" like the incident on the Black Entertainment Television channel's "106 and Park," where the fans literally booed him all through the show.

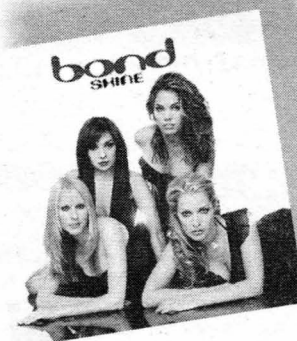
But like his other releases, not all of DMX's songs are just hardcore rhymes. He also expresses his softer side like on "The Rain" and "Thank You," featuring the legendary Patti LaBelle.

The song that shows where DMX is the most vulnerable was "Ayo Kato" where the Dark Man himself pays respects to his fallen friend.

There are also a handful of DMX's own BloodLine artists that makes their debut on his CD. Some of the many BloodLine appearances are Big Stan, Chinky, Magic and Val.

This CD I would rate as one of DMX's best out of his five other albums. I would rank it second behind "It's Dark and Hell is Hot" and in front of "Flesh of My Flesh," "The Great Depression," and "...and there was X."

I would definitely recommend this to hip-hoppers not only because of the return of the old-school style of DMX, but because this is DMX's last album.



Bond breaks down musical barriers

By Stacey Schofield,
Eldorado HS

Many people think of classical music as being dull and boring. If you even suggest listening to something by an orchestra or a string quartet, many people would say no immediately. But if you ever took the time to listen to music from the string quartet Bond, you would realize that this type of music can be very exciting and enjoyable.

Bond is a string quartet of four women. These women are highly gifted musicians, and their intent is to help demolish some of the stringent barriers between musical styles. If you were to flip through the channels on your television and see these women performing, you would notice their awesome playing, great looks and rock-style performance. You might even think they were just another girl rock band. The only thing that would give them away is their musical instruments and unique sound.

The Bond group members are Haylie, first violinist, Eos, second violinist, Tania, violist, and Gay-Yee, cellist. Each of the members brings her own little touch to the group to make their music unique and intriguing. They combine the sounds of classical music with modern style to make a sound that is all their own. Their music has an upbeat kind of sound that makes you want to get up and dance.

Bond's music is of a new age that was even banned from the UK's classical charts for failing to meet all of the rules of "classical" music. If you have ever wanted to listen to classical music, but you couldn't find the right music to fit you, you should take the time to listen to Bond's album, "Shine."

FEBRUARY Through March 7

Susan Taber Avila. With a myriad of colors, patterns, mosaics and iconic imagery, Avila uses fabric and stitching to muse on the cultural intersections of Las Vegas and ancient Byzantium. Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush Street. Free admission. 229-4674.

Through March 16

Gallery Exhibits. African American Heritage Month: Harold Bradford presents a diverse collection of paintings through his use of color and interpretation of subject matter. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Free admission. 507-3980.

Feb. 9

Reflections in Poetry Contest. Enjoy the poetry of Nevada's youth at the 11th annual youth poetry competition. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 6 p.m. Free admission. 507-3983.

Feb. 10

CCSD Scholarship and Financial Aid Workshop. Eleventh grade students and their parents are invited to learn about the financial resources available to help pay for college. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 5:30 p.m. Free admission. 507-3983.

Feb. 13

Chuck Palahnuik, best-selling author of "Fight Club," will read the short story "Guts" and other selected works. A signing will follow the reading. Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-3459.

Feb. 14

Arena Football: Las Vegas Gladiators vs. Los Angeles Avengers. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 12 p.m. Tickets \$9.50-\$63. 739-FANS.

Feb. 16

Eve 6 in concert with Big Bad Zero and The Day After. The Huntridge, 1208 E. Charleston. 7 p.m. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$14 day of show. All ages. 678-6800.

Feb. 17

Rebel Basketball. UNLV vs. San Diego State. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$28, \$12, \$7. 739-FANS.

Gospel Brunch: A "Celebration of History," a program of African American music, dance and faith. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 11 a.m. Free admission. 507-3983.

Feb. 20

Linkin Park in concert with P.O.D. and Hoobastank. The Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7 p.m. Tickets \$36.50. 739-FANS.

John Mayer in concert with Maroon 5. Mandalay Bay Events Center, 3950 S. Las Vegas Blvd. 8 p.m. Tickets \$45.50 and \$35.50. 877-632-7400.

Downtown Cultural Series: Shirley Chen and Dancers. Come and enjoy this ensemble, which promotes Chinese culture and performing arts. Lloyd D. George Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Noon-1 p.m. Free admission. 229-1087.

Poet's Corner. Hosted by Keith Brantley and Pendelita Toney, the series features established poets and open mic participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 229-4800.

Kid Deposit Triumph in concert. The event will include a DJ playing punk to '80s to metal, a Twister game and a Limbo contest!

Balcony Lights, 4800 S. Maryland Pkwy. \$4 donation requested to benefit UNLV's performance of The Vagina Monologues on Feb. 29. 228-2763.

Feb. 21

Rebel Basketball. UNLV vs. Colorado State. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$28, \$12, \$7. 739-FANS.

Rainbow Company Youth Theatre Auditions: "Tales from Hans Christian Anderson." Open auditions for children and teens, ages 10-18, for roles in the musical adaptation of four of Anderson's most beloved fairy tales. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 1 p.m. 229-6211.

Feb. 23

Rebel Basketball. UNLV vs. Wyoming. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 9 p.m. Tickets \$28, \$12, \$7. 739-FANS.

Feb. 26

African American History Month's Evening of Dance. Local dancers celebrate black choreographers of the past and present. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 7 p.m. Free admission. 507-3983.

Lady Rebel Basketball. UNLV vs. New Mexico. Cox Pavilion, UNLV. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$5. 739-FANS.

Feb. 28

Otis Taylor Blues Band. Enjoy Taylor's thoughtful, soul-searching music, driven by guitar and vocals. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 821 N. Las Vegas Blvd. 7 p.m. Tickets \$12 day of performance, \$10 advance. 229-6211.

Liz Phair in concert with Rachael Yamagata and Patrick Park. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$22.50, \$25. All ages. 632-7600.

Having Our Say. Enjoy a theatrical evening offering a glimpse into the birth of black freedom and the rise of the black middle class in America. West Las Vegas Library, 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. 8 p.m. Free admission. 507-3983.

Feb. 29

Arena Football: Las Vegas Gladiators vs. New Orleans Voodoo. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV. 12 p.m. Tickets \$9.50-\$63. 739-FANS.

The Vagina Monologues. Ticket sales will raise money and awareness to stop violence against women and girls. Artemis Ham Concert Hall at UNLV. 7 p.m. Tickets \$10, available through the UNLV Performing Arts Center Box Office. 895-ARTS.

March 20

Ludacris in concert with Chingy. House of Blues, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. 6:45 p.m. Tickets \$35, \$45, \$55. All ages. 632-7600.

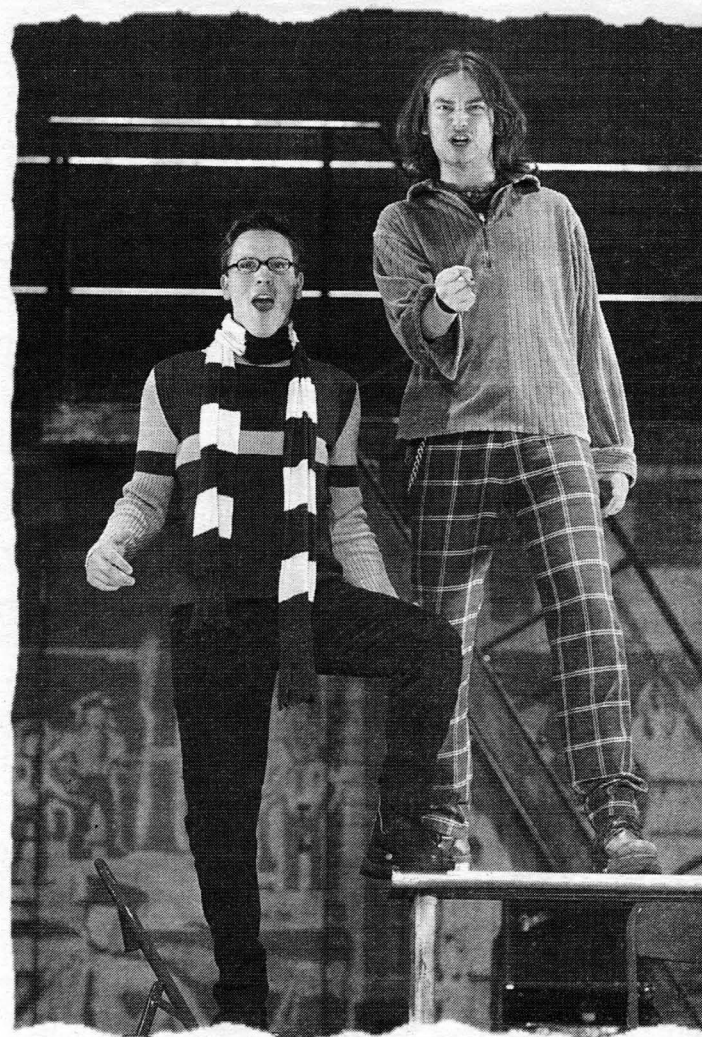
CLASS! publishes only calendar items of possible interest to teenagers.

To submit calendar items, send the details by e-mail, mail or fax:

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classpub@ccmail.nevada.edu

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Las Vegas, NV 89154-1025**

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A struggle with soaring hopes and tough realities

The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning landmark American musical *Rent*, written by Jonathan Larson and directed by Michael Greif, is coming to the Aladdin Theatre in Las Vegas for five performances from Friday, March 19 through Sunday, March 21. Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased at the Aladdin Theatre Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at 785-5000.

announcements

Her history

In celebration of National Women's History Month in March, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District will host an evening with Fern Schumer Chapman, author of "Motherland," "Beyond the Holocaust," and "A Daughter's Journey to Reclaim the Past." It will be on March 4 at the West Charleston Library, 6301 W. Charleston Blvd., at 7 p.m. For more information, call 734-READ or 794-0090.

Calling math and science whizzes!

The Nevada Department of Education announces the availability of applications for the 2003-2004 Lucent Global Science

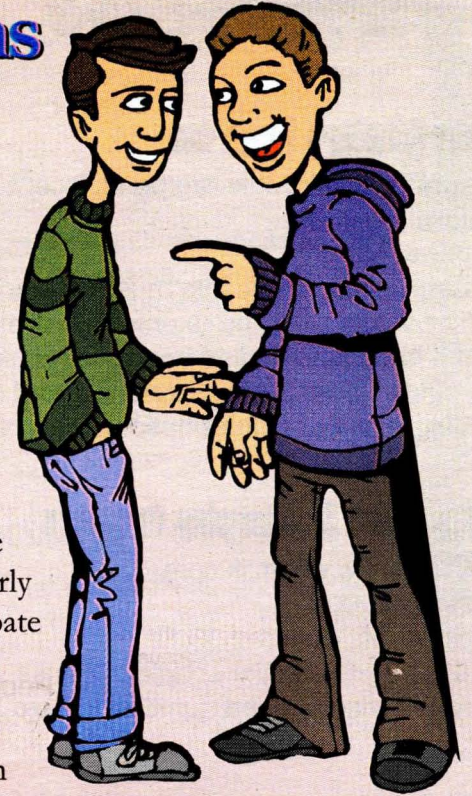
Scholars competition. The sixth annual international competition, sponsored by the Lucent Technologies Foundation, will identify the most accomplished graduating U.S. high school seniors in the areas of science and math with interest in careers in information technology. Those recognized will be awarded \$5,000 and a spot at the Lucent Global Science Scholars Summit. For more information or to receive an application packet, contact Dr. Richard N. Vineyard at (775) 687-9195.

A different perspective

"Environmental Reflections," a watercolor exhibit by Barbara Yoerg, will be on display at the Lost City Museum during the

Continued on page 46

Latest state survey shows Nevada teens making smart decisions about health



WE'RE SO USED TO HEARING about Nevada being at the bottom of every national survey, so how about some good news for a change? Especially when the good news is about Nevada teenagers.

EVERY TWO YEARS, the Centers for Disease Control sponsors state health departments, education departments and other government entities to survey high school students on their participation in and attitudes about risky behaviors. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey looks at behaviors like smoking, drinking, having unprotected sex and dealing with violence in schools. The surveys are conducted anonymously to get the most truthful, representative answers possible. Nearly two thousand high school students representing the typical high school student population participate in the survey, including students from grades 9-12 and from every ethnic group and grade-point level.

WHILE NEVADA STILL RANKS HIGH IN SCHOOL DROPOUTS, teen pregnancies and teen suicides in many reports, the trends according to the 2003 survey are getting better, compared to the last survey in 2001. High school students report marked improvements in almost every category. Most notable are the dramatic decreases reported in the use of tobacco products and smoking. Seemingly, Nevada teens are getting the message that smoking is not cool and not something to even risk trying.

ACCORDING TO STUDENTS surveyed in 2001, 25.3 percent reported being a current cigarette smoker. However, in the 2003 survey, only 19.6 percent answered yes to the same question. That means, just out of the nearly 2,000 students surveyed, 100 fewer students were regular smokers in 2003 than in 2001.

CHECK OUT THE SURVEY RESULTS in other categories of tobacco use to see where teens are making great strides. With this positive outlook, a healthy future for Nevada is just a matter of time!

2001-2003 NEVADA YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY State High School Survey Results

What percentage of students surveyed ...

	2001	2003
<i>Ever tried smoking a cigarette</i>	66.5	57.3
<i>Smoked first cigarette before age 13</i>	23.3	18.8
<i>In past 30 days, smoked cigarettes on >1 days</i>	25.3	19.6
<i>In past 30 days, of those who reported current cigarette use, smoked >10 cigarettes per day on the days they smoked</i>	12.0	8.0
<i>In past 30 days, of those who reported current cigarette use, purchased their cigarettes in a store or gas station</i>	23.0	19.9
<i>In past 30 days, of those who bought or tried to buy cigarettes in a store, were not asked to show proof of age</i>	46.0	39.5
<i>In past 30 days, smoked cigarettes on school property >1 days</i>	10.4	7.4
<i>In past 30 days, used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on >1 days</i>	7.0	3.6
<i>In past 30 days, used chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip on school property on >1 days</i>	4.1	2.8

This page is sponsored by the Nevada Department of Education.

Scholarships

Lucent Scholars Program

Contact: <http://www.iie.org/pgms/lucent/>

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: March 3

Requirements: Applicants must be graduating high school seniors planning to enter a university in the fall and have outstanding academic achievement in math and science, U.S. citizenship, and interest in pursuing a career in information technology.

Sammy 2004 Scholarship Program

Contact: www.whymilk.com

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 5

Requirements: Senior scholar athletes who know the importance of good nutrition to help fuel aca-

ademic and athletic activities are encouraged to apply. Applicants must also provide a 75-word or less essay describing how milk has been a part of their lives and training regimen. Applicants must be nominated by a school counselor, coach, teacher or principal. The 25 outstanding scholar athletes will receive a spot in a special milk mustache ad that will run in USA Today.

Ford Country Scholars

Contact: www.fordcountryscholars.com

Amount: \$5,000

Deadline: March 3

Requirements: Applicants must be high school juniors or seniors planning to enter a two-or-four-year degree-granting program at an accredited university, college, community college or technical school. Home-schooled students are also eligible. Applicants must complete the Ford Country Scholars Program application in full available on their Web site, have at least a 2.5 GPA and include the name of a local Ford dealership.

Robin Daniels Memorial Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 19

Requirements: Applicants must write an essay on the topic "How My Experiences Have Helped Me Realize My Goals In Life," and plan to attend an accredited post-secondary institution. Applicants must also provide two letters of recommendation.

Flora English Creative Writing Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 19

Requirements: High school seniors interested in pursuing a degree in English at an accredited college or university may apply. Applicants must demonstrate financial need, and also provide transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, letters of recommendation, and a 400-500 word essay describing themselves and how their degrees will help them achieve their goals.

Insuring Your Future Scholarship

Amount: \$2,500

Deadline: March 19

Requirements: Applicants must have a 2.8 cumulative GPA and plan to pursue a degree in business at a post-secondary program in Nevada. Applicants must write a 400-500 word essay explaining career goals and aspirations, along with providing letters of recommendation, transcripts and a résumé.

Sallie Mae Fund Adversity Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 19

Requirements: CCSD high school seniors who have overcome a serious personal adversity are eligible to apply. Applicants must have a 2.5 un-weighted GPA, a counselor nomination, a transcript, a résumé, and a 400-500 word essay.

announcements

Continued from page 44

month of February. The exhibit will offer landscapes from across the country and Mexico, also portraying a variety of native desert flowers. The Lost City Museum is open daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. General admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors, and children and members enter free. It is located in Overton on State Route 169 off I-15, exit #93. For more information, call the museum at 397-2193.

Packaged art

Everyday containers are the subject of mixed media sculptures by Nevada artist Chandler Dayton. "Working With What Is," an exhibit of Dayton's work, will be displayed through April 2 at the Nevada Arts Council's Las Vegas Office, 821 S. 7th Street. There will also be an artist's reception on Feb. 6 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. For additional information, call 486-3700 or www.NevadaCulture.org.

Pack your suitcase

The applications for the 2004 National Youth Science Camp are now available. Two high school juniors will receive a full scholarship to exchange ideas with scientists and other professionals from the academic and corporate worlds. The four-week experience includes lectures, three overnight expeditions into the National Forest, and a visit to Washington, D.C. The NYSC experience is offered at no cost to its participants, so that selected delegates may attend regardless of their financial status. For more information or to receive an application packet, contact Dr. Richard N. Vineyard at (775) 687-9195.

Ayn Rand wants you!

The Ayn Rand Institute's essay contests for high school students have begun, and the deadlines are fast approaching! Each year ARI awards more than \$60,000 in prizes to 500 students who distinguish themselves in its high school essay contests on Rand's novels "Anthem" and "The Fountainhead." To access our contest guidelines and new essay questions, or to submit your essay online, go to www.aynrand.org/contests.

To access information about the following scholarships, log onto the Clark County Public Education Foundation Web site at www.ccpef.org.

SNSCA Scholarship

Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 5

Requirements: High school seniors who have met and overcome serious personal challenges or adversity may apply for this award. The application requires an essay of 400-500 words explaining how the student achieved success despite unusual or extenuating circumstances. The applicant must have an un-weighted 2.5 GPA, a school counselor nomination, a transcript and a résumé.

Evelyn Abrams Memorial Scholarship

Amount: \$500

Deadline: March 19

Requirements: Applicants must be female high school seniors interested in pursuing a degree in business or education at an accredited college or university. They must also have a 3.0 un-weighted GPA and be able to demonstrate financial need, as well as provide SAT/ACT scores, an essay, a transcript, and a letter of recommendation.

International House of Blues Scholarship

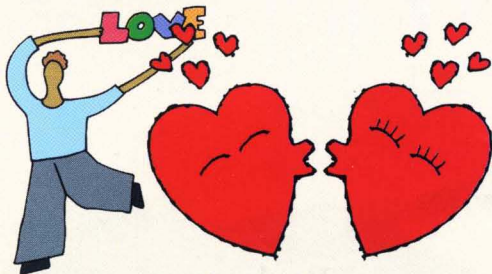
Amount: \$1,000

Deadline: March 19

Requirements: High school seniors who have demonstrated interest and achievement in the arts and/or shown leadership in encouraging understanding among people of diverse backgrounds may apply for this award. Also, applicants must have a 2.5 GPA and supply two letters of recommendation, a résumé, a transcript, and SAT/ACT scores.

HOROSCOPE

February Forecast



Aries (March 21-April 19): It is time to make some major decisions about your future. Don't be nervous; take each issue one at a time. Everything will work out as it should.



Taurus (April 20-May 20): A breath of cool air could come to your already steamy relationship. Give your significant other some much-needed space, or your great relationship will fizzle down to nothing.



Gemini (May 21-June 21): New questions a stranger brings to you have you puzzled. Are you sure the answer you gave this individual reflects how you really feel?



Cancer (June 22-July 22): You should plan to get away from your normal routine. A mini-vacation from stuff going on in your life will bring happiness and peace of mind.



Leo (July 23-August 22): The strain on your pockets is finally lifted. It may have looked bleak for a while, but now you can take a deep breath and relax.



Virgo (August 23-September 22): It is good that you are taking the more responsible road. Your actions will be rewarded, and you will be surprised at the outcome.



Libra (September 23-October 23): The new attitude you have on life is not only beneficial to you, but also to those around you. Things may seem awkward, but that is only your imagination playing with your judgment.



Scorpio (October 24-November 21): You're only concerned with the start of the new school year and when the last day comes around, but if you don't focus on all the events in between, the last day of school will find you in tears.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): Normally you would listen to the problems of others, but you may need to cut communication with a certain individual. This person does not understand the true meaning of friendship, and may take advantage of your kindness.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19): You have been reminiscing about an ex-love. Maybe the chemistry isn't over yet? Arrange a meeting with this person, because he/she may feel the same way.

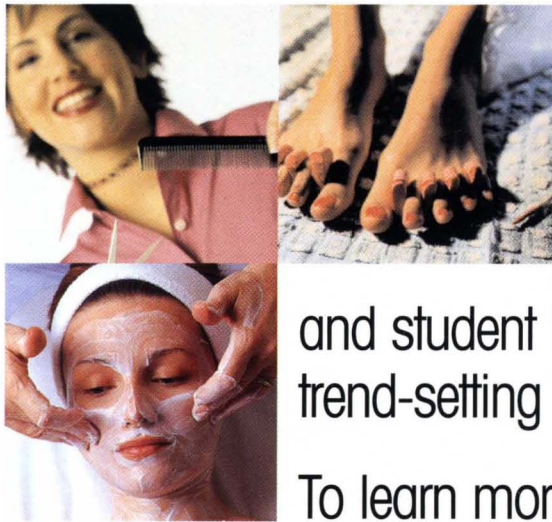


Aquarius (January 20-February 18): Schoolwork may be on overload this month. You may have to arrange for some extra study time this month.



Pisces (February 19-March 20): Have you been second-guessing a possible new venture for the future? All signs prove that there is no need for this worry. Go ahead with your plans.

Finally, a **B.A.** you can use: **Beauty Arts.**



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